

# Part 1

*“Anticipate the good so that you may carry it off.”  
~ South African Proverb*



*The first issue of Speak Up opened with an introduction and an abstract of the different sections of the newsletter. In later years, other sections were added like the Back to Black History & Culture, Ajamu & Mwamba's Myths & Facts, the Youth News and the back page Photo Gallery.*

### MAY 2001

Brothers United Who Dare to Care, Inc. presents this newsletter, "**SPEAK UP**", in an effort to inform, educate and inspire the people of this community. Encouraged by an article in the March 2001 newsletter, "THE WRITTEN WORD" (Washington DC area), Oronde Miller wrote "**There is currently a need for more strong African publications that can galvanize the attention of and mobilize the greater African community. This is our challenge today**". Brothers United Who Dare to Care, Inc., has accepted that challenge and we are providing this medium as an instrument to share information and ideas.

The newsletter will feature several sections to help draw and encourage contribution by all:

**WORD ON THE STREET**, this section will be dedicated to passing along information as to what is going on in the Jonathan Street area and our community as a whole. Listed may be notification of employment opportunities, home owner opportunities, and what our readers know of what is going on in our community that can benefit or effect us all.

**POWER TO THE PEOPLE**, This section will be dedicated to articles about training, self-help programs and any other information that can possibly increase the reader's potential.

**SPEAK UP**, this section dedicated solely for feedback, if you have something to say, *SPEAK UP!*



*Gregory McCampbell, former Vice-President of by Brothers United Who Dare To Care submitted the “Living History” article as an open letter to the draw support for a media project that could help preserve the black history of Washington County Maryland. McCampbell has a background in television news and once served as a news anchor for the Hagerstown T.V. news station WHAG and he later received the Paul Roberson Award for his short film “Beauty Queen”.*

**Living History (submitted by Gregory McCampbell)**

Brother’s United is embarking upon a series of projects that will provide a “Living History” of African-Americans past and present in Washington County and the Tri-State areas through the Visual Arts medium. Western Maryland and her sister States were very influential and essential in the historical development of the United States. African-Americans and Abolitionists both in our region also played a key role in this country’s development. As you may already know, the “Underground Railroad” for slaves made its way through Western Maryland. This information is documented in our county’s periodicals and also in the National Archives in Washington, D.C. We wish to provide our youth and community with a sense of self-esteem and awareness of this history. In order for us to do this, and in the light of today’s new and inexpensive technology, we are requesting funding for a small package of “state of the art” Digital Video Photography and Editing equipment. By obtaining this equipment we will be able to accomplish several important goals for our youth and community.



*Before I started writing a designated editorial column, the Speak Up section of the newsletter was a series of notes and messages, sent in from our readers, like the ones below.*

May 2001 is AFRICAN LIBERATION MONTH, See attached calendar citing THE BLACK FACTS including: Malcolm X, Man of the people and Freedom fighter, born May 19<sup>th</sup> 1925.

*Submitted by Mwamba Raheem*

“We need more stuff for teenagers to do”!

*Submitted by Mary Spencer*

### JUNE 2001



*This was the first article I wrote about blacks being involved in local politics. How wrong I was thinking it would take money or voting by district to get a black elected to office in the Hagerstown area. I want to believe that public chastisement from people like Rev. LJ Guillory and the editorials I had written later helped change public perception of black candidates as well as helping the social maturity of the Hagerstown's citizens*

**The City of Hagerstown elections are over** and a Democrat majority is in office to run the city. Councilman Wally McClure once suggested the citizens of Hagerstown seriously consider electing the city's first black representative. Even the Herald Mail's Bob Maginnis mentioned in his editorial column that Brothers United Who Dare To Care should persuade a member of the black community to run for public office. I believe a black candidate could only stand a fair chance of being elected, in Hagerstown, if the city voted by district instead of at large. A black representative may get elected in this city in an at large election, if large money was in the campaign.

### JULY 2001



*I wrote the following message to the Jonathan Street community. I was encouraged to write it after reading a letter in the Herald Mail newspaper from Linn Hendershot (former Hagerstown City Councilman) who wrote that a name change for Jonathan Street may increase pride for the black neighborhood.*

**Jonathan Street name change**

Should the section of Jonathan Street, between Church Street and Charles Street, be changed to a name that could give a more positive reflection of the residents who live there? Councilman Hendershot hinted on the Jonathan Street name change during his campaign. Would a street name change make a difference or maybe advance community pride? Possibly, who knows? Africa Avenue sounds good to me. Call 301 393-9290 to SPEAK UP with your remarks.

**AUGUST 2001**

*The suggestion to change the name of Jonathan Street to increase cultural pride backfired. I was amazed at the number of blacks that did not want the street named "Africa Avenue". Some blacks said they were insulted because they are not from Africa. I wonder if Dr. Maulana Karenga, who founded Kwanzaa, had such opposition encouraging African heritage. The only person that had a valid argument not to change the name of the street was Bill the Mailman. Bill said changing street names and numbers created a logistical nightmare for postal delivery. The blacks that complained I believe did so out of racial shame and the "Willie Lynch Syndrome".*

**Africa Avenue by Andy Smith**

One would never had thought that suggesting the name "Africa Avenue" for the Jonathan Street name change would have sparked the response it received from a "few" of our readers. Africa Avenue was suggested by the editor because of its uniqueness as a name possessing the potential to stimulated ethnic pride within a neighborhood that predominantly has ancestry ties to Africa. Apparently some of us in the Jonathan Street area are upset with our heritage. This newsletter is a platform for positive influence and not to promote division, segregation or separatism. We hope our readers will become positive participating factors in the greater community of our city and not be inflicted with self-hate or take to racial shame. Most other nationalities proudly display their ancestry heritage

with pride and value, not outrage at the mention of it. James Brown sang in a song “Say it loud I’m Black and I’m Proud. I don’t hear those words even whispered anymore, let alone sang openly. Hey, no one even dares to hum a bar of “We shall overcome”. People get up off your knees, the light is on, move forward with your head up! It is okay to be black. At least, I believe it is okay for me to be black. Oh, did I say something wrong? I do not believe anyone owes me anything because of the color I am. I do not accept that I am restricted because of my color. I am not a Black Activist. I am an Activist that happens to be black.

**Top 10 Jonathan Street name change suggestions from our readers:**

1. I recommend Heritage Boulevard or Kwanzaa Street...
2. I think it should be named after Cpl. Wilson, Hagerstown’s Medal of Honor winner; also they should rename Wheaton Park after Mr. Step Washington...
3. Please not Martin Luther King...
4. What about Malcolm X...
5. I don’t think Africa Avenue is a black thing, we don’t need that...
6. Africa Avenue would be another way for them to segregate us...
7. Don’t name it Africa Avenue...
8. Who said name it Africa Avenue...
9. I don’t care, does it matter what it’s named after, it’s just a name...
10. Why are they changing the name anyway?

**SEPTEMBER 2001**



*I wrote the Hot Spot article as a knee jerk reaction to the complaints that was coming my way about the Hot Spot Community Initiatives project in Hagerstown and its director Carolyn Brooks. I used the word “unleash” in the article to be provocative. I later apologized to Carolyn dealing with the situation in that manner. I personally had no issue with her or the program, which is a State initiative to help reduce crime and offer community involvement.*

### **The Hot Spots Program Pt. 1**

What do you know about the *Hot Spots* program and how it affects the Jonathan Street neighborhood? What do you know and how do you feel about Carolyn Brooks as the coordinator? Do you know where and how Hot Spot Funding is used in the Jonathan Street neighborhood? Anyone, feel free to respond to these questions, before I unleash my findings.



*Mary Beck, my sister-in-law sent this letter in to Speak Up after the police raided a home in Hagerstown's black community. The Hagerstown Police Department task force said they executed the raid looking for a known felon. The felon they arrested was released on bail the next day. The raid in my opinion was overkill if the individual arrested was not dangerous enough to have bail denied. About a dozen heavily armed officers to storm and trash Campher's house. During the raid my wife Mollie was at the scene concerned for the children that were in the house during the raid. HPD officer Curtis Woods was involved in the operation and made the remark to my wife, "If you lay down with dogs you get fleas," because her sister's house was the target of the raid. Wood's remarks made headline for a story in the Herald Mail newspaper and I called for a meeting with police chief Arthur Smith. The meeting attracted over 30 people from the community, including Michael Nigh the head of the Public Safety Commission. Nigh later offered and printed the Speak Up newsletter at no cost, because he read from a meeting agenda we needed a source to help print the news publication.*

#### **Police pointing guns at children.** (Submitted by Mrs. Mary A. Beck)

I understand that the Officers must protect themselves but once they have a situation contained and there seems to be no direct threat to the Officers, perhaps their guns can be holstered. The children did not ask to be put in these situations to have someone standing over them with guns pointed at them as well as at their parents. These situations can be very traumatic for children.



*A community garden planted in a vacant lot behind the home of former Sheriff Deputy Bruce Johnson went unkempt after the photo opportunity was over. Johnson had also submitted photos than were placed with his article. The parties involved included former Brothers United president Stan Brown who was the Community Mobilization Chairman at that time.*

**Wasted money on “Garden” project.** *(Submitted by Bruce Gregory Johnson)* In a lot located behind the 200 block of Jonathan Street, a few thousand dollars was dumped into a vacant lot garden as a “beautification effort. Money that could have went to helping the youth of our neighborhood. The project was sponsored by Neighborhoods 1<sup>st</sup>, Community Mobilization and Maryland Hot Spots Communities. The garden was allowed to turn to weeds and then plowed into a corner after complaints from residents close by that trash, rodents and other problems grew out of the failed garden.

## OCTOBER 2001



*Earlier in September I had wrote a nasty gram threatening to expose problems with the Hot Spot program. No one even responded in writing compared to the many verbal complaints I had to put up with about Carolyn Brooks and the Hot Spots project. The lack of response is the basic example of the cowardice of the backbiters that complained. Unfortunately around the time of this article, the U.S. suffered the September 11, 2001 attacks of horror. My writing reflected the sympathy I felt for our nation.*

### **The Hot Spots Program, Pt. 2**

No one has responded to the topic about the *Hot Spot* program or *Carolyn Brooks* as the coordinator, so apparently there is no issue anyone wants to put their neck out for. And rightfully so, our nation has suffered enough and so has our local community. I believe we can advocate without the



hostility and aggression. Let's make a commitment to leave one another better than we found them or leave them alone.

### NOVEMBER 2001



*We have a section of the newsletter called "Back to Black History & Culture. The November 2001 issue had posted local, regional and national information about black heritage. The following is from that section of the newsletter.*

#### **BACK TO BLACK** History & Culture

"Be not deceived. The struggle is far from over. The best of being Black is yet to be – So said the Ones who Died to set us free" - *Ossie Davis*

#### **Local**

**Mr. Henry Williams**, it was brought to our attention that Mr. Henry Williams gave a valuable contribution to the Jonathan Street community that should draw a worthy tribute. Mr. Williams apparently headed up the Boys Club when it was still in the black section of town. I had attended the Boys Club back when it was on Jonathan and Church Streets, but my recollection of black leadership at the Boys Club only goes back as far as Mr. Sonny Watson and Lawrence Freeman when the building was there. I would like to invite anyone to join us in organizing a fitting salute to Mr. Henry Williams for his contribution. Please call or write our office with any response to this article. Let's get back to black on this one.

#### **Regional**

**Negro Mountain**, is it true that the mountain up near Cumberland Maryland was named Negro Mountain after brave black soldiers who fought to defend it during a historical battle in this area. I have not had the

time to research the story, maybe our readers can get involved. Was the battle from the Civil War or the Revolutionary period? The Doleman Black Heritage Museum is a good starting point to get facts from a black historian perspective.

### *National*

**“Jocko” Graves statues**, insult or symbol of pride. Back in a time when the CB radio was the craze, several brothers and myself would get on the airwaves and do our thing. Often times other CB operators would engage us, frequently with insults because we were black. One phrase used by the insulting rednecks was “Porch Monkey”. Well, I had no idea what a porch monkey was until one of the brothers broke it down to me. A porch monkey was the reference given to the little statues of a young black boy named Jocko Graves. Well after this revelation I wanted to go around to every yard I could find the statues in and “free” Jocko. It was not until my Aunt, the late Peggy Doleman, provided information about the historical account of how a twelve year old black slave recruited by General George Washington to help in the crossing of the Delaware river to surprise their enemy to help win the revolutionary war. After Washington had crossed they found the horses they needed fasten to what they thought was a tree stump, it was not. Jocko apparently froze to death holding the horse for the troops crossing the river. Washington had a statute of Jocko made and erected at Mount Vernon in tribute to the sacrifice of the young black Jocko Graves. So tell me are people putting the statues in their yards to honor Jocko or is it a symbol of racial insult to have a statue with black features stooped over holding a lantern like a porch monkey?

## DECEMBER 2001



*December 2001 was the official birth of the Speak Up editorial column. Everything before was a collection of submitted articles many of my own, so I felt if no one else wanted to speak up, I would. The first column was written about a trend that was to start which undoubtedly would have the Washington County Public School system acting just like Fredrick County School system. Redistrict to please the affluent and shuffle our poor children around to “jive” the statistics in their favor. Such is often done to put children that qualify a school district for federal funding, and then move the underprivileged children out of that district after they use up funding allocated for them. That’s right, I wrote it. Challenge it!*

**Public Schools redistricting, how does this affect you? By Andy Smith**  
 Things you should know. When they start playing the shell game with our children we should show an interest or at least be well informed if not well involved. The School Board would like us to believe they must redistrict or redistribute our children to different schools within the county because of overcrowding. Believe that if you must, but what if they want to shuffle our children for hidden agenda? What if underprivileged children are being bused to another school district to justify the building of a new school and drawing the funding that is set aside for less the fortunate children. What if, after the school is built there is no need for these underprivileged children to mix with the more well to do children for which the school was intended. The redistricting card is played again to send the underprivileged kids back where they came from under the pretense of overcrowding. Did you know that buying a home in certain

school districts affects the price of a home? What if they wanted to put all the children from lower income homes in one area of town to create a more desirable public school for those who could afford to buy homes in another area of town? Or what if, people that have the clout to keep your kid out of the public school location their children attend. How about this, if a schools test scores are low and the school get a penalty: the loss funding. The redistrict game is played to win back the money. The joke is over, and we need to make sense of this mess. Why can't we build or rebuild a school with population growth in mind? Why did we sell school buildings like Woodland Way and Surrey? Is it time to build an East High and West High School in Hagerstown? A school should not be rewarded or penalized because of test scores, educating should not be a contest. Finally, we should not accept this REDRESTRICTING TREND because that's what Fredrick County does. Are we well informed on this matter and allowed to be involved? I don't think so.

# Part 2

*“When the heart overflows, it comes out through the mouth”  
~ Ethiopian Proverb*

**JANUARY 2002**

*The article below was written at the height of my frustration in trying to help the people of the Jonathan Street community, mainly the blacks that often complained to our office about change but did little to get involved in the work to make change. I knew the core of problems for blacks in Hagerstown was the lack of political representation. I hinted in the article that I was going to be more politically involved.*

**2002 What are you going to do?**

I am convinced that no matter how hard we work in the BUWDTC office, we have not convinced the residents of the predominantly black Jonathan Street community that the information we pass along can help improve their lives and move the neighborhood ahead. What will it take to convince the residents of the Jonathan Street area that equal opportunities exist? Will it take having a black on the city council to insure a fair balance on the issues? We need black candidates that are not self-serving and have been through or have a clue and a care for the issues that most blacks in Hagerstown deal with. Are there any blacks in Hagerstown, even more from the Jonathan Street community, willing to become politicians? Are there any blacks willing to join the city council and help all of the communities in Hagerstown move ahead? Blacks do not need to be represented by Uncle Tom House Negroes. I know what I am going to do to help the residents of the Jonathan Street neighborhood to have a fair opportunity to do move ahead. Its 2002 what are you going to do?

**FEBRUARY 2002**

*This year for whatever reason, it seemed that white folks were acting out during black history month. I had never been down with black history month because it is the shortest and coldest month of the year and you really do not get out and get a chance to do a lot publicly for the occasion unless you live in a region with a warmer climate. One good snow storm and any scheduled events can be*

*cancelled. Growing up in Chicago, black history was recognized and celebrated year round and winter weather never put a damper on black heritage gatherings. I later come to find out that a lot of milestone achievements for blacks occurred in February, including the passing of the 15<sup>th</sup> Amendment allowing blacks to vote. Nevertheless, I'd rather see June as a month for black heritage celebration, African Liberation day is celebrated in June.*



### **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?

### **MARCH 2002**



*Still brewing from my frustration of a lack of response from within the black community, I fired with both barrels my disappointment. The only time there was a stir in the black community was when a child of a well to do black family was arrested for crack cocaine or one of the churches in the neighborhood was having another anniversary celebration. Never mind that the housing market was favorable for home ownership and self help programs were at an all time high. We were as a people, are still settling for crumbs. I guess no one wanted to be bothered*

*with our organization because we spoke back to the “man” and challenged the “good ole boy” system. People in the neighborhood had a lot to say behind my back, none dared to write in about their “issues” yet. So, I thought I could provoke a response with the following editorial.*

**We need to hear from you, Are you out there?**

I am opinionated, wordy and often satisfied with my own orations. I am however driven by issues other than my own and that is why we started this newsletter. You have an opportunity to Speak Up! So, I have no clue what is getting through to our readers if they do not respond. The editorial is mine. The rest of this section is yours. I’m curious, has anyone found a job using leads from this newsletter? Has anyone, other than me, found out how to buy a home using information inside the past issues? I know only a few people walked off with the prize money from the contest we run monthly. Valuable information that can help black people often never makes it to the grass roots level. This newsletter is put forth to help get the word to the people and let the people Speak Up! Speak Up is an effort to let the readers in on what may benefit us all, not with just a Black Thing but the Same Thing. We try to point you to a way out, not a hand out and meet you on the way up. Lately I feel like this newsletter is a wasted effort, but I know better. It does sadden me that most of the response to this newsletter is idle chatter and gossip. The phones would ring if I were to announce when the street signs for Africa Avenue were being posted or if a petition was going out to get rid of the Hotspot program. So what’s shaking? We need to hear from you, are you out there?

**APRIL 2002**



*American patriotism was at an all time high. Our nation was off to the Middle East to start a revolution of democracy. So our leaders would have you think. I see our meddling abroad more in the interest of Capitalism, than democracy. At least if you do the math you will see the government spends more on war toys than on the soldier boys. I believe the true revolution is going on within the black man, fighting his own slave mentality and self-hatred. Legendary song writer and social*



*radical Bob Marley was able to stir the South Africans to get up and stand for the revolution. What can Bob's message do for you?*

### **Are you ready for the 'Revolution'?**

Due to preparations for the revolution I have refrained from submitting an editorial, but I would much rather submit the question. With so much turmoil is our mist there is also the potential for progress. Evolution is often prompted by revolution. Do not jump the gun and run this article to the Homeland Defense team, my issues of revolution is about an individual struggle to bring one's self to overcoming internal restraints that may have been brought on by external factors. Fear, low self-esteem, anger, bitterness, mistreatment, misconceptions, complacency, denial and any other factors that have been soldiers of destruction hindering you from advancing in life. Don't take my word for it, do a self examine. Rap with others about it. Open your mind and meditate on the Bob Marley song "Rebel Music" and ask yourself: Are you ready for the Revolution?

### **MAY 2002**



*Jonathan Street is a historic street in Hagerstown and it is named after the founder Jonathan Hager. The neighborhood before desegregation had its own grocery stores, bowling alley, jewelry store, hotels and nightclubs. Business boomed on Jonathan Street and like most black communities across the nation, these businesses diminished (see the movie "Lackawanna Blues"). Jonathan Street was ground zero during the crack cocaine plague of the 1980's and other drug related conflicts haunt the community. That is not the sum of what Jonathan Street is or can be. The neighborhood could have had the first black history museum in the state of Maryland if local agencies would have supported the project. Jonathan Street was home to a Buffalo Soldier and Medal of Honor recipient and more positive history and contribution is with in the neighborhood. I wrote the editorial below because I was witnessing a gentrification process that has transformed other black*

*communities in nearby cities into new communities that former black residents could afford to remain in.*

### **Is Jonathan Street really that bad, or not?**

I heard recently that the Jonathan Street area was so bad that some people do not want to work in that neighborhood. I admit, the Jonathan Street area is very busy and I moved to a more peaceful, slower paced neighborhood. I still work in the Jonathan Street community and I try to make it better. According to the statistics, crime in the Jonathan Street community is decreasing. There really isn't a drug problem on Jonathan Street. The persons allegedly selling drugs on our streets are between the ages of 15 and 25 years old. Grown men should be able to approach these young people that are not from this area and have them stop causing problems on Jonathan Street. Local citizen partnerships do street beautification "Clean Ups" in the Jonathan Street neighborhood, so it shouldn't look that bad. The police Street Crimes Unit carry out raids on homes and stop vehicles in the Jonathan Street area involved in drug activities. So, crime is under control. Streets in the Jonathan Street area have been changed to one way to curtail unwanted traffic. Several Habitat Homes have been built in the Jonathan Street area. Several churches have enlarged their structures. Community groups are more involved. Is Jonathan Street really that bad, or not?

**JUNE 2002**

### **Is Big Brother watching?**

I do not know what the fuss is about the privacy, freedom, and the government's right to watch, search or detain citizens. Our civil rights are manipulated all the time, admit it! Assuring our freedom cost a price. The cost can be in the form of taxes, and or infringement on an individual's rights. Like the character Tony Soprano says, "What are you gonna do?" Comedian George Carlin made me realize most citizens have a NIMBY philosophy; we don't care as long as it's Not In My Back Yard. Well (a deep subject) we have a situation in our back yard. I don't have cause for alarm, but I do want to put out a word of concern. The Martin Luther

King building is a County building with a history back to a time it was the last schoolhouse for blacks in Washington County before desegregation. So, rightfully some blacks from this area have a sense of belonging to the facility and its future. The County has been sensitive to the local interest for the Martin Luther King Community Center and has allowed the community to make use of the building for neighborhood events, the Head Start program, and offices for Brothers United Who Dare To Care and The Hot Spots Initiative. The Memorial Recreation Center uses the gymnasium. The Head Start Program is taking “security” measures for its program by installing access doors and camera’s. I suggested we get volunteers to help monitor entry to the center. I had worked in a U.S. government facility. Cameras and access readers do not secure a facility, they are used for tracking. Is Big Brother watching?

#### AUGUST 2002



*The following editorial was also published in the Hagerstown Herald Mail Newspaper as a letter to the editor. Herald Mail Editor Bob Maginnis wrote sort of a rebuttal to the editorial which he cited sources that said they help the black community which included remarks from former County Administrator Rodney Shoop. Shoop was reported as saying he had the Brothers United Who Dare To Care office carpeted and that remark was not true, and there is no record of the County government giving the organization any money except through Gaming funds. The County Commissioners failed to respond to a request for funding submitted under my leadership.*

#### **Is the government helping the Black Community?**

Remarks by speakers at the NAACP Family Picnic held in Wheaton Park, has brought focus and debate concerning the needs of the black community in the Jonathan Street neighborhood. The event had a crowd of over 400 people and was a joyful celebration. A celebration that should remain in the Jonathan Street neighborhood, much like the Each One Teach One campaign that started in the Jonathan Street community. Has anyone asked the black community if the government is helping them?

This is only one story from a black organization. Over a year ago Brothers United Who Dare To Care went to the local government for \$25,000 in funds to get video camera equipment to start a Black History Documentary series and a Youth News Network. The local government agency chairman told us he did not feel it would benefit the community. Yet, the City of Hagerstown carried out a similar project, an African American Survey, this year for \$30,000, with only written and audio reports. A City Councilman, before he was elected, vowed to help change the name of Jonathan Street to “instill pride and change the perception of this part of town for generations to come.” I recommended the name change Africa Avenue. The Councilman has not helped me. Is that name too black? Why do other organizations outside of the Jonathan Street area get the funding help they need? I believe those organizations owe their success in getting funding and providing good reports about their activities, to the fact that they can afford the qualified staff to handle that responsibility. One local government director told Brothers United Who Dare To Care at a public meeting that it gave one organization under white leadership funding instead of a black lead organization, because the white organization wrote a better grant. The Director admits the black run organization produces a good service to the community, yet would not fund them. The same local government official said, on record, that his agency gave out over \$4 million last year to organizations helping their communities. The director never responded when asked how much of that four million went into the black community. Brothers United Who Dare To Care went before the Washington County Delegation asking to help black lead organizations identify funding resources, scholarships, and internships and work-study funding for Jonathan Street area youth. The Delegation told us that a member of their panel overlooks a listing for scholarships. The member of that panel has not forwarded any information to our office in response. I sought a local state official’s help on other issues in the Jonathan Street neighborhood and received no help. Brothers United Who Dare To Care issued a press release last year, pleading for intervention from outside of our local power structure (City of Hagerstown / Washington County) to insure that the citizens in the Jonathan Street neighborhood get a fair chance to succeed, mainly in

establishing an African American influence in the power and leadership structure in the Hagerstown – Washington County area. I believe that day has come. Instead of asking the local government if it has helped the black community. Ask the black community. Then write and tell us. Is the government helping the black community?

### SEPTEMBER 2002



*The article below was announcing an effort to bring the people of the Jonathan Street area into a collective of activist who wanted to further improve the community. The Neighborhood Improvement Team concept was a dud and later a group from outside the community capitalized on the idea and won a \$75,000 grant that they hired a Non-black organization to do the work of “improving” the young people in the Jonathan Street neighborhood. You snooze, you lose.*

#### **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

### OCTOBER 2002



*The article below is almost prophetic to what eventually happened with this nation’s involvement in war and shady financial dealings on Wall Street that is leading to a global disaster.*

**Everyone answers to someone?**

A friend indirectly reprimanded me for doing something that black folks need to stop doing, fighting among ourselves, most of all publicly. My friend was referring to what was reported about Carolyn Brook's in last month newsletter. The truth is Carolyn is not the problem, even any concerns with the Hot Spot program or her relations with the black community. Everyone answers to someone. My issue about the surveillance camera installed outside of the BUWDTC office has basically amounted to a peeing match. The dialog prior to the installation of the camera was the issue, not so much as the camera itself. Everyone answers to someone. Global Terrorism, Wall Street's Financial Terrorism, Psycho Sniper Terrorism, Drug-Thug Terrorism, Racism. I warn you, I warn myself, what goes around comes around. What you get away with now can come back and bite you. Get it together. Sooner or later. Whatever you do. Everyone answers to someone.

**NOVEMBER 2002****Most people eligible to vote, don't. Don't be one of them.**

*(The remarks of the editor are not those of Brothers United Who Dare To Care)?* I cannot offer any political advice as the president of BUWDTC but as the editor of this newsletter I certainly hope to influence the voting election before us. Some Black people should quit voting for every Democrat just because you are black. Some of the Democratic candidates count on that and do not even bother pursuing your vote or representing the interest of the black community because they bank on that age-old stereotype that all blacks vote Democrat. That is exactly how we lost the leadership of Bob Bruchey in this city. We will have a chance to regain Bruchey's leadership as a Delegate he can help give our community a voice in the State Delegation. Here is another reason for Democrats to go across party lines, Greg Snook. Greg never failed to respond to a call I made to him and he never failed to help BUWDTC within his power. At my last meeting with the County Commissioners, the five commissioners

sat at their table in the chambers, some with their suit jackets on and some without. What held my attention was the one Commissioner leaning in with his sleeves rolled up, a posture that reflects a willingness to take action on the issues. The man was Paul Swartz and if we loss his leadership the balance of power to the people could shift back to the bureaucratic process. Moving on. Don Munson, what about him? Donahue, haven't seen him. Keep Bob McKee and with some help from Bob Bruchey, Hagerstown could have a chance at getting a point across in the State Assembly. Now, on to the Governor's Cup. I honestly believe that Kathleen Kennedy-Townsend is the State's best hope in leadership and I invite her to be more upholding of Western Maryland and if not, then Western Maryland would best break away from Maryland and become West Maryland. What would we stand to lose the VIEP stations? The day to vote is Tuesday November 5<sup>th</sup>. Most people eligible to vote, don't. Don't be one of them.

## DECEMBER 2002

### **2002, What did you do?**

What did we do? We speak up! We are spreading black history and culture through out the County and the Internet community. We have helped support and encouraged the need for responsible fatherhood. We have helped young black people take a responsible lead in their lives. We gave computers and technology to those in need, not just black people, to help improve their quality of life. We have people discussing the issues that affect black people. We helped get a white supervisor suspended from work for calling a subordinate employee a "nigger". We stood up for ourselves on the steps of Hagerstown City Hall defending our claim that the local government is not doing enough to help the black community. We convinced the Gaming Commission to help fund our newsletter/website project, that servers the entire County. We are helping other organizations reach the Internet community. We invited the Washington County Commissioners to see how much we were able to do without their help in an effort for them to take a part in helping the black

**SPEAK UP!**

**The Editorial Collection**

community. We were true to our mission. We are reaching our goals.  
2002, what did you do?



# Part 3

*“Cross the river in a crowd and the crocodile won’t eat you”  
~Madagascar Proverb*

## JANUARY 2003

**Can inner city neighborhoods become terrorist recruit centers?**

Picture this. A group of strangers come into an economically and socially depressed community and offer the inhabitants an opportunity to make a few dollars and perhaps a bit more assistance than the local help programs are offering. There will be a risk the recruits are told, but that's only if your dumb enough to get caught. Well what's at stake here? You don't make or have enough to get by on. Your just being asked to let someone store a package in your house, it's not like your going to lose your house if you get caught, you don't own it. How about this? What if you let a few people hide out in your home from time to time, they'll pay you. Maybe you can be a "look out" or a "mule" and carry things from here to there. You'll make some fast cash, or get a house full of furniture, groceries, jewelry or a fancy car. Just don't get caught. The "man" doesn't care anything about you people. Look at where you live. Think about it. They'll even give you something to think over the offer. The scenario just written may sound fictitious, but it goes on all the time with the inflow of the drug culture in the inner cities. What if terrorists are taking the same route as the drug dealers to involve our neglected inner city neighborhood in their activities? We must make things better for inner city residents or teen-pregnancies, substance abuse and street violence may become the least of our concerns. Ask yourselves. Can inner-city neighborhoods become terrorist recruit centers?

## FEBRUARY 2003



*This is one of my most controversial editorials. My younger brother read this article and said he had to ask himself, "Which one am I?"*

**Nothing more than: Field hands, House Negroes or Trouble Making Niggers.**

Most Black Americans cannot trace their family history back to the African motherland, and many deny being African. The American slavery

system took the Black American's African heritage away and gave them a history that starts with blacks being considered nothing more than: Field Hands, House Negroes or Trouble Making Niggers. The Field Hand was believed to be better suited for domestic work and given less respect than livestock. The slave owner's dog was treated better than the field hand. The field hand labored hard and would never receive the fruit of their labor, never seeming to get ahead or free from the situation. All the odds were against the field hand. The House Negro somehow met the slave master's approval to actually work in the owner's home, even eating the same foods and wearing the same clothes as the slave owner. The house Negro was so devoted they believed that master's water was sweeter than the Negro's. Believing that their misplaced loyalty would gain them better treatment, the house Negro would protect and support the master's interest at the cost of their own race, even their own self. Now, that Trouble Making Nigger, the one that could not shake the need to be free, the one that could not deny the nobility of their blood, the one that would risk life and limb to be treated as a God created human being. The trouble-making n\* wanted to be educated, wanted to contribute to society, wanted to be treated as equal, and now wants reparations for the injustice caused by slavery and the theft of their ancestral ties. Time has past and black history has more to offer. Some blacks continue to live that given past, but which of the three would you have lived to be? Field Hand, House Negro or Trouble Making Nigger?



*The article below opened a can of worms after the Local Management Board kept us out of the loop on a program targeting the Jonathan Street neighborhood our organization serves. After former Washington County Community Partnership Director John Budesky said at our meeting his organization does not issue funding per street, the WCCP received a state grant to do a Neighborhood Initiative. Not only was our organization not given a chance to contract the work. The Washington County attorney refused to give me information I requested to find out how the money would be spent helping our neighborhood. This was the first article I wrote on the matter.*

**Neighborhood Initiative to deliver a \$75,000 Peer Education Program to Jonathan Street Community.**

The Boys & Girls Club received grant funding to implement a Peer Education program at the Bethel Gardens Community Center. Remember Neighborhood Night on Friday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, when everyone came to the Parkside Community Center (Sumans Avenue) to eat pizza and was paid to fill out surveys? Based on the results of the survey the majority of community that participated in the survey wanted programs for drug and alcohol prevention, job training, Life Skills training, STD & HIV prevention, and parenting skills. The majority wanted the training for ages 13-19 and for the training to be at Bethel Gardens. Questions and concerns about this program that has come up: *Will the program include participants from the Jonathan Street community for which the monies were granted?* Yes, the participants enrolled in the program live or spend their time in the Jonathan Street community. *Why isn't a black organization or an organization from the Jonathan Street community running the program?* Brothers United Who Dare To Care was never invited to participate, plan or advise. Not a problem, the program is not BUWDTC's target age group or service area. However, a black run agency from the Jonathan Street community did have an opportunity to submit a program to compete for the funding and attended a meeting about the grant but decided not to apply. *Will all the money be spent on the youth in the program?* Brothers United Who Dare To Care will to publish a line item report as to how ALL funds are allocated for the youth of this community in the Peer Education Program if provided with that information. BUWDTC is asking the community to support the Peer Education Program and participate. Unit Director, Darnell Shaffer, a black man dedicated to serving all youth that he is given the opportunity to, will be running the program. Shaffer is devoted to making opportunities for our youth to be better people.

## MARCH 2003

**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!

**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



*The following piece is from Mwamba Raheem (BUWDTC Secretary) & Ajamu X (Active member). The March 2003 article fired up a series of hot letters from former library supporter, Don Brown (retired Boonsboro businessman). Don stopped contributing to the library shortly after his rebuttal to the article below.*

### **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.

**APRIL 2003**

**What would you do?**

Recently I have received a series of notes from Don Brown (retired businessman and former contributor to our Black Heritage Library that once bore his name). 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. Quite contrary, what the press wrote about

how the County government treats request from citizens to for public information. The Herald Mail report put exposure on the issues. Still another letter from Don Brown warns me against publishing “inflammatory and unsubstantiated articles referring to the historical accounts about deaths of black inmates at the local jail. So, what good does rekindling such stories do? Read some of the letters (following Don’s notes) we received at that time from black inmates in jail and tell me, What would you do?

*Don Brown wrote 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 it’s 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

*Don Brown wrote in a letter dated Monday March 24, 2003*

Andy,

The written word takes on an authoritative majesty all it’s own, and will forever be looked upon as “Gospel”. For that reason, the impulse to print unsubstantiated inflammatory stories should be resisted. Articles such as these “Facts” should be researched and the official confirmation stated in text, or as a footnote. (Official means: Police report, photos, eyewitness



report, newspaper coverage, obituary, death certificate, etc.) Without proof such stories are taken as “street gossip: by most thinking people. If they were indeed true, why change the names? Fact:? Prove it with names, dates, and authentication or the motivation for it’s publication will always be met with skepticism.

With respect,  
Don



*Below is the last note we received from Don Brown dated Saturday March 29, 2003. I felt Don’s note below was meant to set me straight on the concerns I raised about how the Washington County Attorney tried to refuse public information that confirmed my suspicion on how public funds were handled.*

Andy,

This certainly doesn’t do anyone any good (the Herald Mail report), especially Brothers United.

It is probably just more ammunition to fuel the County Commissioner’s skepticism.

Another pebble in the pathway to progress.

Don

*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.



*It paid off confronting the county government about how funding was used to help the young people in the Jonathan Street neighborhood. The local newspaper contacted the county attorney who said it was none of my business only to reveal the information after a state official said it was public information. My suspicion was right, more was spent on administration than on the program. The sad thing about this matter was a young man doing the work did not receive what the other administrators charged for the six-month project. He was not one of the line items payments as one director took \$8,000 another \$6,000 and still another \$9,000. I failed to see any of the directors billing the grant in the neighborhood working with the young people that they paid \$10 a meeting to show up and give the impression that the program had "participants".*

**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.

**MAY 2003**

**Who's at fault here?**

I failed to clarify the problem Brothers United Who Dare To Care has about the issue with the Peer Education Program and whom I believe is at fault in the matter. My roundabout and inflammatory approach to exposing the situation left some individuals feeling like casualties and targets of scrutiny. One man told me people are telling him, it looks like he was getting the money that was exposed in the budget report and that he was an "Uncle Tom". One other person said it made him feel as though I was attacking the Boys & Girls Club program. To either concern, not so, no truth to the rumors. The Boys & Girls Club is a wonderful organization, while I may not see eye to eye with how the executive leadership communicates, I do not see the Boys & Girls Club at any fault in this matter. I do question why Jim Deaner has not forward to me a list of the Board of Directors for the Boys & Girls Club of Washington County. I do have a problem with the County Attorney telling the local newspaper that public information is none of my business, me a citizen of the County. A Jurist Doctorate should be more professional or leave office or at least seek his bosses' counsel before denying information or running his mouth to the press. The problem originated when the county office the Washington County Community Partnership decided not to include Brothers United Who Dare To Care in any facet of their Neighborhood Initiative for residents in the Jonathan Street community. Our organization told the WCCP "community representative", Gina Hartley that we were interested in grants larger than mini-grants. Yet, we were not told about the Peer Education Grant. BUWDTC was "mistakenly" removed from the WCCP mailing list for any grant

information. I visit the WCCP office at least once a month with the newsletter. Gina Hartley stopped attending certain meetings in the Jonathan Street community and when I asked why she stopped attending BUWDTC meeting, she more or less said we made her feel bad. I would hope so. If you don't intend on doing your job right, you should feel bad; your paid to do your job. Did I miss anyone? Who's at fault here?

### JUNE 2003

#### **Let this be a lesson to you.**

A few days ago, a 70-year-old man received a high school diploma while children of another family watched both their mother and father cross the stage at the same time in a graduation ceremony. To begin, I was quite amazed as I sought desperately to find parking in the crowded lot at North Hagerstown High School, so that I could attend and witness the graduation of some family friends. I was only a few minutes within the start of the program, yet there was not a place to park within the vicinity of the auditorium. The greatest amazement to this situation was that the graduation program was not for the North Hagerstown High School graduation class. The graduation program was for the Alternative School program, which is made up of the night school, the extended school, and the GED program. I once heard that the GED was referred to as the *Good Enough Diploma*, and it must be because that is what I had received about twenty years ago. I had since attended college and received a college degree. My point is I could not believe that so many people would be in the graduation ceremony, let alone enough of a crowd of participants and spectators to fill a parking lot. The ceremony was no different than any other graduation program, complete with caps, gowns and a lot of hot air blowing around from different speakers (no offense coach Beard). The graduation program was good and well under the two and a half hours my wife and I endured when our oldest daughter graduated from North High's class of 2000. Perhaps the Y2K high school graduation ceremony was longer because more windy speeches were required in case the world, as we knew it would have ceased that year. Nevertheless, I had a twinge of envy watching the June 5, 2003 ceremony because, when I received my

GED there was no cap and gown celebration. At that time, I was enrolled in my first semester of college and had taken the GED exam on a Saturday afternoon so I could be admitted as a regular student in college. Seeing the elderly gent receive his diploma and kudos Thursday evening taught me a lesson. It is never too late to get your high school diploma. My advice to those of who are out of school and do not have a high school equivalency: Let this be a lesson to you.

### JULY 2003

*The following articles were submitted to a tobacco awareness essay contest and published in the July 2003 issue of Speak Up. I am proud to say my children submitted several of the articles.*

**“What I like about being black and what I don’t like about tobacco”  
by Josie Smith, age 9**

What I like about being black is all the things in our history. Such as, the way we fought for our freedom from slavery and we fought for desegregation. I also am proud of all the famous black people. I am working on black history in school. I learned that there were a lot of black people in power changing history to make things better for me. What I don’t like about tobacco is, it could kill you. My mom smokes and I worry about her. Also, cigarettes stink and make your clothes stink.

**“What I like about being black and what I don’t like about  
cigarettes” by Alicia Chacon, age 15**

I like being black because I know what our black culture has been through and how much we have fought to get our freedom and rights that we deserve. I also like being black because now we have so much respect for ourselves and others, also because how much pain we have overcome and how we have recovered from slavery and racism that is still going on in the world today. We have more power now not to feel afraid for what others can do and say and how we react to what speak about us. What I don’t like about cigarettes is that they stink and they make your teeth yellow and they stain your fingers, also because it is killing most of the

African Americans because most people in the United States smoke cigarettes and they are at more risk to get lung cancer and they will have really bad health for as long as it can't be cured and most of the time there is no cure for things like that, also cigarettes cost too much money.

**“What I like about being Black and What I don't like about smoking”  
by Toni Smith, age 15**

What I like about being black is our cultural background. I also like being black because it makes me different from other people. I like being black because black people are great entertainers, we have our own station for black entertainment; we are popular for our great singers, comedians and actors/ actresses. A black actress named Halle Berry won an award for Best Actress in the movie “Monsters Ball”. I also like being black because I think we dress better than other people and we have nice clothes and a lot of people like to buy the same types of clothes we do. What I don't like about smoking is that it is bad for your health. I know that smoking is bad for your health from personal experience. I used to smoke, but I quit, I didn't really like it that much. I was just trying something new and if you are reading this, I advise you not to try it at all, it was not a good experience. It makes you short of breath and it makes it hard to do things. I also have asthma and it made it me have a lot of breathing problems when I smoked. Also, it has a nasty taste it leaves in your mouth and it makes your breath smell bad. Smoking leaves a bad smell in your clothes. I would always use a lot of body spray but the smell was still there. Now that I quit smoking, I can breath better and I don't have to use my asthma medicine as much. Also, I can do a lot more things and I don't get tired as easy as I used to. That's why I prefer to life better, tobacco free.

**“What I like about being black and what I don't like about tobacco”  
by Carissa Jade Smith, age 10**

What I like about being black is all of the history on blacks. Also, I learned that blacks were not always treated fairly. I learned about slavery. I also, found out that my Aunt Peggy had started the Doleman Black Heritage Museum. Black History Month is my favorite month. I am

proud to be a black African American. What I don't like about tobacco is that it makes people have cancer and other diseases. Also, it causes people to have to use oxygen tanks. Tobacco hurts people in many different ways. My dream is to stop all tobacco companies, also to help everybody stop using tobacco.

### SEPTEMBER 2003



*My article below pretty much sums up my ability as a leader. Not only had I not been able to draw other black leader to ban with Brothers United Who Dare To Care, I could not even get 500 black men to come together and march through the black neighborhood and on to the steps of our local government buildings to demonstrate that there are black men in Washington County Maryland that care enough to be seen collectively. I was attempting for a demonstration on a small scale of the "Million Man March". I still believe that in a county with 12,000 blacks, these 500 black men can come together and demonstrate in a manner that will inspire our black community with a hope that there are black men who will go the distance to insure their success. Nationally there are 100 Black Men groups and perhaps I aimed too high with the desire for a group of 500. Nevertheless, I could not lead a hundred black men into action. Yet I still have hope that there will be a black man who will come and lead these 500 black men forward. I hope that day comes soon so, I can join at least 499 other black men who care. Lord willing.*

#### **Black Men Who Care?**

Brothers United Who Dare To Care (BUWDTC) is a non-profit community improvement organization, serving Hagerstown Maryland and Washington County. BUWDTC focuses on Culture, Education and Career to help improve the community for Blacks in our area. BUWDTC was established in 1996 as an organization working to give black men an opportunity to take responsibility in the community as well as their lives and families. BUWDTC has several community outreach programs and activities: Advocacy; Black Talk Sessions; No Smoking Neighborhoods; Black Culture & Resource Center; Computer Training and our Speak Up

community newsletter. BUWDTC is a voice and a watch group for the black community in the Hagerstown, Maryland area. BUWDTC is currently bringing together 500 black men from throughout the state of Maryland who are willing to march through the cities of Maryland together to symbolically demonstrate that there are "Black Men Who Care". Our hope is to have these 500 men march through the black communities of each of the major cities in Maryland and rally and announce the issues and concerns for the black communities of Maryland. When we successfully put together this "Future 500" group of black men who can help improve the future of these communities, the citizens of those communities will see that there are "Black Men Who Care". Will you be one of 500 black men who care?



*The following story is by my youngest daughter written when she was nine years of age. The story is moving and alarming. I actually interrogated her to find out how she came up with it. She assured me that she got the idea for the story from spending time around my outreach efforts and wanting to write something to help.*

### **Drugs and Abuse by Josie Smith, age 9 (September 2003)**

Today is not a good day to play. Today is not a good day to sing. Today is not a good day to do anything because today is the end of a little girl's world. It all started out in a small town down south. A young girl about nine years old, tall blond hair, a nice girl. She never got in trouble, but she had family problems, her mom, Mary, did drugs. And when she did drugs she was all mad and she would always hit her daughter Eleanor. Mary participated in drug classes but only when she felt like it. Eleanor never told anybody about her mom, she only told her best friend. But her best friend was sworn to secrecy. One night Mary went to the bar, she got drunk and came home and saw her daughter Eleanor asleep. She woke her up and started to hit her. The next day Eleanor got up, got dressed and walked to school, but she did not realize her mom made a hand print on her face. Her best friend said, "What's that on your face, I don't know what you think it is, it looks like a hand print". Eleanor said, "Please, just act normal". So they went to the first class and Eleanor's teacher asked her



what happened and Eleanor said, “my mom and me were playing and she hit me with her hand when she was trying to grab her drink”. But the teacher knew that was not the truth, so about two weeks later her mom Mary got a notice from the school board and from the cops about Eleanor’s mark and she was taken to court and they did not do anything. Five months later her daughter had a birthday and Eleanor was so “low”, Eleanor got nothing on her birthday. One night Mary got so mad, she got crazy and started hitting Eleanor, she hit her so hard she was rushed to the hospital, but she did not make it. Two days after her death, Eleanor’s friend told the school board about Eleanor’s mom so then she was sent to jail for the abuse and death of Eleanor J. Walker.

### OCTOBER 2003

#### **“They Never Picked Up Another Cigarette” by Josie Smith, age 9**

Once upon a time in New York City there were a group of teenagers, they were the best kids you ever saw. One day a new kid moved close to the kids. A couple of months later the kids became best friends. Two days later the new boy asked if they could come to his house and they said yes. So they went to the new kid’s house and he asked them if they wanted a cigarette. They asked him, “what is a cigarette, a drug?” So they both took a puff and they kept it a secret. They kept smoking until they found out it can kill you. So they went to the new kid’s house and said, “what kind of friend are you if you give us stuff that can kill us and our bodies?” So they told their parents about them and the new kid. So then they started to take medicine to see if it can clear whatever is wrong with their lungs and to stay healthy. So they never picked up another cigarette.



*Below is the article that I announced I would be writing this book. Who would have thought it would take me another four years to put it together.*

## DECEMBER 2003

**That's what happened.**

I could have written this last editorial of the year with 'Year in Review', but I didn't, you should have been paying attention. I attended my first Baltimore Orioles game and I learned when your sitting in the eighth row on the third base line, PAY ATTENTION or you could get hit by a foul ball. For the record I didn't get hit, I did witness Chicago (where I grew up) take a hit on the head that night from the Baltimore Orioles. The newsletter has been growing so much that I only wrote eight editorials this year, counting this one. You will be pleased to know that I plan to release the entire collection of the Speak Up editorials (from the start of the newsletter in May of 2001), BUWDTC press releases and official correspondences with commentaries in my first book "*Speak Up! The Editorial Collection*" by Andy Smith. The editorial collection will let readers go deep inside the meaning of the *Speak Up* writings. The inspiration to write the book came after a meeting at the BUWDTC office with Universal Negro Improvement Association – African Communities League (NIA – ACL) President Ahmed Assalam, who is also founder of the SCC in Washington DC. Minister Assalam asked me, "Have you written a book yet?" The minister's question stirred a conviction in me for not having written a book and the conviction was galvanized when he handed me a copy of a book he had written "Human Rights In America – A 21<sup>st</sup> Century Tragedy" (available in our Culture & Resource Center). Maybe some readers thought I was slacking off, going soft on the issues or changing strategies because they didn't find the Speak Up editorials in some this year's issues. Look for the release of the entire editorial collection and for everyone that wondered what happened to this year's editorials. That's what happened.

# Part 4

*“No matter how long the night, the day is sure to come”  
~ Congo Proverb*

## JANUARY 2004

**Who is Faisal Hussein?**

“The dark side of Islam” was the title over a recent Herald Mail Letter to the Editor. The letter was sparked by comments in prior letters to the Herald Mail from Faisal Hussein. I believe Herald Mail readers should have a little more background on Hussein before they validate his remarks as those of Islam. About 25 years ago Faisal went by the name of Eric Arnold. He hung out around with us in the weight room at the YMCA and would tell us he was a former Marine Commando and had been stationed in Beirut, we were teens at the time and did not take Eric seriously, he was then a balding white man in his twenties. Eric was trying to be a bodybuilder then and later told us he was a power lifter. About ten years after that Eric had dated a black woman in the Jonathan Street area and he then was telling people he was Jamaican. When the professional wrestling school opened in Hagerstown, Eric told me he was a professional wrestler and he spoke with convincing wrestling jargon. In the late 90’s Eric was again dating a different black woman and I was surprised to see him attending a church I was a member of. The church is Apostolic and Eric was dressed in the type of fashion worn by our church Deacons and Televangelist. TD Jakes and Creflo Dollar were popular media icons at that time. I was a bus driver during manhunt for Osama bin Laden, and I had Eric as a passenger and during the trip his conversation was about “his people the Palestinians. Eric told me he was of Palestinian decent. Since the “War On Terrorism” began. Eric became the Muslim, Faisal Hussein who has had confusing letters to the Herald Mail editor published. I used the term “confusing” because the Muslims I interviewed for this editorial are not in agreement with what he writes. The local Mosque is considered God’s house, so all are welcomed, including Faisal Hussein. I was told that the word “Islam” meant “to submit to God”. I guess that means that as a Christian, I too am Islamic. So far, Eric has said he was a Marine Commando, a Weight Lifter, a Jamaican, a Professional Wrestler, a Church Deacon and a Palestinian Muslim. Tell Me. Who is Faisal Hussein?

## FEBRUARY 2004

**Our black leaders gave their lives.**

I can't help but look at the fact that most of our community's strong black leaders died before reaching their seventies. Was the cost of serving their community worth shaving of years off their lives?

Leaders like Charles "Step" Washington, Robert "Bob" Kelch, Donald "Donny" Davis, James "Mickey" Toliver and Margaret Washington did not live past their sixties or early seventies. And I can imagine why. Here I am on a Saturday night at 1am doing this editorial, knowing I will be back on Sunday to finish or is it already Sunday? Did the contribution of these black leaders make a difference? Mr. Washington fought against job discrimination, Kelch was one of the first blacks to run for City Council in Hagerstown, Davis fought racism and discrimination and Toliver worked for equal opportunity and a decent future for our youth and Mrs.

Washington contributed to the joy of our children. Their work definitely had an impact on my live. Mr. Step helped to get me a job at Mack Trucks. Mr. Donny Davis made me challenge my leadership abilities. Toliver's program to get blacks office skills is mirrored by our Computer Training program. I learned from Mr. Bob Kelch that if you want to run for public office you must make sure the playing field is fair and that the people must want you to represent them. Mrs. Margaret Washington's contribution to our children's happiness, lives on in Clair and Dot's "For Our Kid's Sake" program. How I wish these leaders could have lived long enough to see the difference they are making these days. How's that for Black History Month? Our black leaders gave their lives to their community.

## MARCH 2004

**"No Tip" by Seth Stewart** (*Seth Stewart is a writer for the Youth News section of Speak Up*)

Five local teenage high school girls were celebrating that three of them made the honor roll and decided to have an evening meal at Denny's. Although this does not seem irregular, this spin on the story does. Three

of the five ordered pancakes, bacon, and eggs with cheese, the other two ordered Buffalo wings. This is not exactly what I would call a difficult order; however it was obvious the waitress thought so. When she arrived with the order she delightfully handed them French toast, bacon, and eggs without cheese. Now this is almost an understandable mistake, so when the girls saw that the orders were wrong, they politely informed the waitress of the mistake, okay no problem, except when the waitress came back, the order was still wrong. When told that another mistake was made, the waitress decided to argue with the customer (which is why I like all you can eat buffets, you can't get your own order wrong). The girls decided the service wasn't the greatest quality and that no tip was earned, the waitress happened to overhear this while the girls were discussing the tip issue and the waitress became rude and caught an attitude with them, after an exchange of a few words the waitress decides to call her manager. After the manager found out what had happened, he still made the girls pay, even after the wrong orders and poor attitudes of the employees. The waitress caught an attitude after getting the girls' orders wrong, and they politely informed her of the mistake. Denny's did not charge the girls for two of the meals and the Day Manager has offered to give the other girls a "free" meal. The parent of one girl would like an apology.

#### APRIL 2004



*The following was submitted by my 11 year-old daughter Carissa, she wanted to submit it for the MOTA literacy contest but I no longer allow my children in contest under my management. The articles submitted by the youth to the Youth News all receive a nominal award from BUWDTC regardless. Articles in the Youth News are rewarded "two-fold". One, the child's work gets published. Two, a monetary award is given for literary contribution. I do owe Carissa an apology; when I had first read the story I knew she had slung the article together in a hurried attempt to increase her economy. I told Carissa, who is in accelerated classes in school, that her article "sucked". For saying that, I am very sorry. As parents, we can be a child's number one critic. I should have been more sensitive instead of demanding. Also, that*

*was terrible language to use, even to an adult. I thank God that Carissa says she still wants to be an Attorney and she say's she wants to give my wife and I part of her income as an attorney. I will be waiting to see that happen. Again, I apologize Carissa; you have a beautiful mind, Love Dad.*

**“Who Should Get Screened” by Carissa Smith, age 11**

I think men and women both should attend cancer screenings. They should do this when they are 30 years of age and older, because sometimes older people get cancer quickly because their body gets tired and weak. They should do this because if someone has cancer they may want to find out about it before it is too late. So they could help fight it. I would attend a cancer screening and stop smoking class, because I could encourage people to never smoke or to stop smoking. I could also teach people the harmful effects on smoking and what different cancers come from smoking. You could take stop smoking classes and wear a nicotine patch to prevent the cravings to smoke. You could also ask someone where to go for classes or watch commercials for where to go or things like Nicorette to take to help fight smoking. (Important Note: Carissa's oldest brother, Paul Stark died at age 21 in 2000 from blood cancer, she is sincere about cancer screenings. Shouldn't you?)

**MAY 2004**

*The front page of the May 2004 issue carried this article and a full color picture of Mrs. Rodriguez.*

**Community Helper passes on**

Mrs. Beatrice Rodriguez, known to most, as “Ms. B” was a champion for the community and a friend to all. Good things will be said about her and stories will be told to recant her deeds. This story is a tribute to the character of “Ms. B”.

I was fortunate to have grown up in a neighborhood where she and her family lived. For most of my life she has always been more than Ms. B. She was related to my Uncle John Henry Johnson. Her son, Ben Taylor

and I were schoolmates, Boy Scouts and Boy's Club members (back when it was the Boy's Club with leaders like Mr. Sonny Watson and Lawrence Freeman). Years ago, when I was living with my Aunt Minnie, I was waken in the middle of the night and told we had to get out of the house because of a gas leak. Back in those days, we did not call the insurance companies in such an emergency and we did not call the Red Cross, we turned to our neighbors for help. Or in some cases such as that one, our neighbors came and offered help. Ms. B offered us her home to stay in that night until it was safe to return to ours.

Mrs. Rodriguez did many other things to help her neighbors and their children. She had a special interest for others to have a decent place to live and for others to be treated decent wherever you lived. She had served as a Board Member for the Hagerstown Housing Authority because she was so involved on helping others get fair housing. Ms. B loved to help people, even when she had battled health problems in her last years. Even then, she served as a community helper. One thing that will remain with my memories of Ms. B, she always dealt with you straight, if you were out of line, she would come to you and get you straightened out. Ms. B was "Old School"; she'd help you or deal with you like she was your mother, teacher or judge. And she did so with love. God Bless her and her family for such a wonderful woman.

#### JUNE 2004



*The article below was written by my son, he rarely gets involved in my work and he had one of his friends read this at a youth rally for him. I did not know at the time, that Caesar had written the story until I saw his friend give Caesar part of the money from the prize it won at the youth rally. Caesar paid his reader a speaking fee so he would not have to read the story himself before the crowd at the rally.*

#### **"My Mom" by Caesar Smith, age 13 (June 2004)**

My mother smokes everyday, I'm worried that one day she may die from cancer. She often feels bad and sometimes I hear her coughing in the morning. She has asthma and doesn't breath very well. I have asked her



why she smokes and she just says it's a habit. I hope that some day she will quit because I would like her to be around for a long time. My mother has a lot of trouble breathing and doesn't like to climb stairs. I think that smoking makes her look a lot older than she really is. When we were younger, she would play games with us and race us. I miss having fun with her. Now, most of the time she just plays games with us for a little while and then she says she can't breath. My Grandmother is in a nursing home and on oxygen, all because she smoked. I don't want to see my mother end up like that as well. I love my grandmother, but I don't visit her because I don't like nursing homes. I know that smoking cigarettes is addictive and hard to quit, so I don't fuss with my mother so much. I just want to keep her around as long as I can.

#### JULY 2004

##### **No Child Left Behind?**

Rod Paige, the U.S. Secretary of Education wrote, "...our mission is clear: an America where every child will be educated and no child left behind". In Washington County Public Schools you can bet, a child can be left behind. My son is in summer school because his reading teacher, Mrs. Hudson refused to teach him to read. Hudson put him out of the class for falling asleep, banishing him to the Principal Mike Marko's office. My complaint is this, Hudson did not send my son's work assignments with him and he failed her class. In order to make up the work and pass on to the next grade, he must attend and do summer school assignments. Maybe she thought this would be ample punishment for him. So, who dropped the ball in making sure my son received his reading assignments? Who left my child behind? At my last meeting at Western Heights, Principal Marko never mentioned that my son was failing school. Marko was too busy trying to have my son sent to Alternative School. Like his father, my son speaks up. While I don't condone him talking back to adults, I will not wish for my son to cringe away from expressing his views when he feels he is not being treated fairly or if he disagrees with authority. I do want my son to be obedient and respectful if he gets in a conflict with an adult.

Even so, I question why Principal Marko, a stickler for the rulebook, allowed my son to sit in his office and not do his schoolwork, With “No Child Left Behind” being an issue, how did my son not get his reading assignments completed?

Things like this happen when the school system is so caught up in budget woes and redistricting. I suspect redistricting to be nothing less than the redistributing of low-income and disadvantaged children to funnel Title I funding to different schools. I live a three-minute drive from North Hagerstown High and the area I live in has been redistributed. Now my children will have a fifteen-minute drive to South Hagerstown High. I made a call to the Co-Chair of the Minority Achievement Task Force, Dr. Patricia Abernethy, but apparently she must not be required to return calls to the leader of a black led organization. What would Brothers United Who Dare To Care know about minorities? I do know this much. You left my child behind.

**“Cancer the big C” by Tyler E. Sterling, age 12 (MOTA Literacy Contest Winner for July 2004)**

Cancer, also called the “Big C” is a serious and often deadly disease, no matter what state, city or county holds the unfortunate record for having the highest percentage rates. It’s sad that Washington County has to hold the record statewide with 80-100 people diagnosed each year. There is good news. The good news is that some cancers are treatable and preventable. I have decided to focus my essay on two specific types of cancer. These are colon cancer (treatable) and lung cancer (preventable). I will begin with colon cancer. Colon cancer is the second leading cause of death in Washington County. The disease can be hereditary. Several of members my family have had a Colonoscopy, even before the age of 50. Thankfully they are all colon cancer free. Knowing heredity is one of the risk factors, I will definitely get a colon cancer screening when I get older. Even though I am twelve years old, I already take the risk factors serious. I try to take care of my body by getting plenty exercise through sports, skateboarding and riding my bike. I am not allowed to eat a lot of junk foods or foods high in fat. I also drink a lot of water. I don’t drink alcohol

or smoke and my father does the same. My dad also makes sure I get plenty of fiber.

Symptoms of colon cancer might include: weight loss, blood in stool changes in bowel appearance and unusual abdominal pains. So, if you have experienced any or all of these symptoms, please make a doctor's appointment immediately. Washington County even has a program you may qualify to get a free exam. You may qualify if you are a resident of Washington County, between 50 and 64, are uninsured or underinsured, and have limited income.

The second cancer I want to write about is Lung Cancer. This is the number one preventable type of cancer in the United States; yet more than 434,000 Americans die each year from diseases caused by tobacco. I read that the nicotine in cigarettes is very addictive. When inhaled it goes right to the brain and that is why people get hooked so easily. Cigarettes also contain 4,000 different chemicals and 40 of these cause cancer.

Television, Billboards, actors/actresses and peer pressure paint a "Pretty" picture of smoking. All age groups get targeted even people suffering from depression or nervous disorders can be seen in movies smoking and saying, "it calms their nerves". Smoking is a big moneymaking business. If people would only see a clear picture of how they really look with a "cancer stick" hanging out of their mouths, often coughing and choking while wrapped in a cloud of gray-blue smoke, they may possibly try harder to quit. If that is not enough, they could go to one of the cancer websites and view all angles of actual diseased lungs. It's not pretty.

However, there are many places that hold programs to help with screening of both types of cancer. Since I am focusing on Washington County the list include: Brothers United Who Dare To Care, the Washington County Health Department, Robinwood Medical Center, Washington County Hospital, Churches, Youth Related programs (the Memorial Recreation Center, the Boys & Girls Club), Adult Housing programs, Expos and Health Fairs, Businesses and Health Care providers.

Remember, when it comes to your health its your life – Be there for it.

## AUGUST 2004

*The article written below was submitted by my brother and friend, radio talk show host Jay Winter Nightwolf, “the most dangerous hour in radio” Sundays on WPFW 89.3 FM Pacifica Radio in Washington D.C.*

**“How To Bring Peace and Freedom To The People of the World” by Jay Winter Nightwolf**

*(The following is from the speech given by Jay Nightwolf at Malcolm X Park in Washington D.C. on July 20, 2004)*

Peace is the cohesive and collective reality of love, understanding and sharing by all of the people of the world for the betterment and well being of all of the people of the world.

I know that these words sound good – like an unreachable idea. Some who are familiar with the manner in which people of various cultures and traditions have been exploited, robbed of their dignity, pride, language and their resources would say to me “good luck on your quest for world peace.” Some might even say that it would never work.

I know about many of those that have survived the lost of homeland, genocide, family, tribal affiliation, clan and freedom with little or no hope for recovery or a better tomorrow.

Those in countries like Iraq, Afghanistan, Palestine, Venezuela, Haiti, parts of Africa, the Americas and right here on Indian Land that have lost all feel, when forced to obey the rules, regulations and laws of occupying regimes that are arrogant, unjust, greedy and unfair.

Through my ancestors I know just what it feels like to be marginalized, subjugated and forcibly removed from what we once knew to be home and told that you could never go back.

I know how occupying oppressors use the tools of separation to divide and conquer the peoples of the Americas. They use their tools of economic disadvantage as well. The attack on the Native American was both intentional and calculated. They set out to destroy us, a noble, caring, sharing and inclusive people without feeling any remorse whatsoever. When the European invader reached the shore of our homeland, were in

excess of 400 million strong. By the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century there were only approximately 250,000 around to talk about the past.

I can tell you about how these same invaders brought with them the gun, the priest, the cross and the alcohol along with their violent and repressive ways of thinking to what they called “The New World.” These tools of misery enable the invader to put sister against sister and brother against brother.

They brought into being an education system that was designed to let a few in the door and shut the masses out without a hope to make things better. That education has done much damage to the poor and those who can’t afford to get an education.

Let me give you some facts about what is going on in Indian country today. Genocidal practices waged upon the Native American did not stop in 1890. The invaders forced the American Indian to live on land that in most part is not fit for human habitation. When they forced my people to move to reservations in the middle of nowhere, President Andrew Jackson called it “The Indian Removal Program.” What happened to us has a striking resemblance to what is going on right here in this neighborhood and other neighborhoods through out the major and secondary cities in the United States today.

However, there is one exception. It’s no longer called removal, its called gentrification. This process of forcing people out of their houses and neighborhoods has a striking resemblance to what the Israeli government controlled by Ariel Sharon is doing to remove the Palestinian people out of their homeland. Sounds familiar doesn’t? This whole Israeli-Palestinian issue must be dealt with immediately. It stinks to high heaven. I wonder how many of the Congressional representatives are in bed with the Israeli lobbyists. These evil and vile messes of gentrification affects the Black, the Yellow, the Red and yes even some of the White with the nation’s poor at the top of the list.

On the Cheyenne reservation through trickery, Peabody Coal has leased a big piece of land for the sole purpose of removing coal for huge profits. The Cheyenne don’t get one red penny. Peabody has fenced off the land. Now the Cheyenne people must drive 80 miles to purchase a bag of coal to heat their home in the winter that originated from their own

reservation.

Did you know that the largest excavation and mining of diamonds in the world are being mined in western Canada on the Cree Indian Nation's land? Another lease of Indian land for profit. Why do you think that there is so much trouble in Chiapas, Mexico? It's not because of the fine coffees that the Zapatistas grow. It's because in the poorest area of Mexico the Zapatita Indians are sitting on an extremely large reserve of untapped oil. The Uawa Indians of Columbia are sitting on the largest oil resource known in Columbia.

The Alaskan Pipeline supplies the biggest supply of natural gas and oil to the United States. It sits on Indian land. When the United States went to war in Iraq the first time the price of gas sky-rocketed. Then they came up with the gas shortage lie. When George W. declared the illegal bi-lateral war on Iraq, the first mission the U. S. military focused on, under the direction of Donald Rumsfeld, was to secure the oil fields in northern Iraq. If my memory serves me right I think George said something about bringing democracy to the Middle East. I doubt if he could look at a map point to where the Middle East really is. The United States only gets 5% of our oil from the Middle East. Did you know that 95% of the oil we use comes from right here at home. The good ole US of A. So why is the price of gas so high? Just another lie.

Let me tell you about the Uranium production here at home. Did you know that it takes 20 tons of uranium to produce 1 pure ounce of uranium for nuclear energy? On Navajo land in Arizona, corporate America goes below the water table to extract uranium. During the process they contaminate the water. Then after the one-ounce of pure uranium is extracted, the remaining 20 tons of uranium is then dumped and spread out over the land. That's gravel called "mill tailings". The Navajo people build their homes out of adobe bricks that they make from the mill tailings. The homes of many of the Navajo people are radioactive. They must drive miles away to get water to drink, to cook with, to wash their clothes with, to bathe with and water their livestock.

There is an unprecedented abnormally high rate of deformed babies born, stillbirths and cancer in Indian country. So you see the process of genocide waged upon the Native American did not stop in 1890. You

don't have to take my word for it. Go and rent the movie "Broken Rainbow" and see for yourself.

Sister and brothers, Human Family I can go on and on with this. More importantly how do we put a stop to the evil or at least slow it down. We must beware of the evil that calls everyone else evil. We must get back to "*We the People*."

Time is running out. Here is some of what we must do to regain democracy in America:

1. Practice what all of our spiritual leaders taught and that is love or learn or re-learn to love each other again.
2. Don't hesitate to forgive each other and stop being so critical of each other. Nobody is perfect. Acknowledge that.
3. Always take time to understand, tolerate and respect each other.
4. Tomorrow morning if you're not a registered voter, change that. Then go to the polls and vote this November.
5. Educate your children on how to respect each other. Lead by example. The children are watching us.
6. Form small groups to find ways to help each other in times of need.
7. Find ways to improve the condition of the health of our grandmother Earth. Speak out and raise hell if necessary to get the attention of those that we elected to help the environment.
8. When what is right is being jeopardized, don't hold your tongue -- speak out.
9. Hold all of those that are elected accountable for their actions on the issues and laws that affect the well-being and sovereignty of each and every human being.

Do me a favor and take a look at an organization that I'm a part of the "Being Human Party." Check to website at [www.BeingHumanParty.com](http://www.BeingHumanParty.com). Bear with us we're under construction. I invite you to get to know the Being Human Party and work with us for change and to make this world a better world to live in. Never forget to look out for your next seven generations. It is our responsibility to make the way better for those that will come after us.

"Remember this sisters and brothers, it's not about the pigmentation of

your skin, it's not about the color of you eyes, it's not about the texture of your hair, or the clothes you wear, or the food you eat, or tradition or culture, or who you worship and call God if you believe that way, It's About How You Treat My Heart."

Iya Jay Gola Wahya Sunoyi. I'm Jay Winter Nightwolf, Sunrise Mountain Keetoowah, Holy People of the Chi la gi, enrolled member of the Echota Cherokee Tribe of Alabama.

Wa do. Thank you! Do na da. Until the next time we visit and talk. Peace!!!!!!

#### SEPTEMBER 2004

(The following is an excerpt from a letter to the editor in response to a Speak Up editorial.)

**Dear Andy,**

This is a response to your "No Child Left Behind" article in your July edition of *Speak Up*. In my opinion there are many reasons why a child may be left behind. I believe one of the main reasons is lack of parental involvement. Too many times parents expect the teachers to do all of the education. Being a parent myself, I believe that I am my child's first teacher and will continue to be her teacher until she reaches adulthood. I am sure you are aware of the comments Bill Cosby made at the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Brown vs. Board of Education. Like Bill Cosby says, it is time for African-American parents to take responsibility for their children. You stated that your son was put out of class because he fell asleep. Why should the teacher allow your child to sleep in class? Who dropped the ball in making sure your son gets the proper rest to be able to perform in school? You also stated that the principal never mentioned that your son was failing school. Do you not get your son's report cards? How, as a parent did you not have any idea he was failing? I can't imagine any student getting recommended for Alternative School over one or two incidents...



The bottom line is, parental involvement goes a long way more parents need to pick up the ball and not expect everyone else to do it for them.

Sincerely,

*Shannon Gaines*

**Dear Shannon,**

Thank you for the response to the editorial, I am glad to know someone within the community took an interest. Your letter also provided well thought out advice. For the sake of space I was not able to reprint your letter in it's entirety.

I want to address your concerns since your wording is advising me, a teacher, on how to teach my own child.

First off I am not an African American, so please don't offer me the advice of one. I am black, my children are black and they are my children. I am involved with my children. I don't wait on or settle for reports from other people to use as indicators as how to raise my children. I am older than you are and I had six children. I buried my oldest son after he died from cancer at the age of 21, just four years ago. After I buried my son, my concern for my five remaining children became intense and vigilant. Please, don't go to sleep thinking I am not involved in every facet my children's educational well being. Unfortunately, I trusted Mike Marco, the former principal of Western Heights Middle School, to alert and inform me of any concerns for my son after I met with Marco in my office here at Brothers United Who Dare To Care, long before the conclusion of the last school year. Don't believe that I was waiting on a report card. Woman, I went straight to the top. Apparently Mike Marco did not feel he needed to keep his word with me, a black man. It's good Shannon to have you speak up, but my experience in the matter with my son and his educational experience exceeds your level of insight into the situation. Are you ready to attack a system that knows it is so unfair to our black children that they have established a "Minority Achievement Task Force"? You should question why the school system needs such a task force. We pay them well to educate our children. No one pays me to look out for the children in our community. When I am wrong, I say I am wrong. When

someone wrongs us, I say they are wrong. The public school system was wrong for trying to leave my son behind. I “picked up the ball” and he moved on. And you are wrong for thinking less of me, a person that serves our people for the love of our people. But isn’t that how it goes, the people you love are most likely to be the ones to wrong you.

**Andy Smith, Editor**

### OCTOBER 2004



*The following story was accompanied by photos of the destruction an fires being done outside the Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center in Hagerstown, Maryland where our office and resource center is located.*

*There was not much of a response from the community to the article so, I opened the doors of the resource center to the young people hanging around the community center. One boy went from slashing tires in the parking lot to becoming one of the first members in our No Smoking Youth Club. We have been working with the young people since then. By bringing the young people into our programs, they went from liabilities and at risk to stakeholders in our programs. The young people are more actively involved in our work than most adults in the neighborhood.*

#### **Adults need to get involved!**

It is a shame that we are losing ground in one area that is keeping our neighborhood from moving forward. Who is looking out for the young people hanging out on the streets? Some of the young people hanging out are unsupervised and careless. There is nothing wrong with hanging out, we all did it. When we hung out in my youth, we were discreet and respectful. And when we did something wrong or disrespectful out in the open, it was reported and we had to answer for it when we got home. This day in time, if you call a child’s home to alert them of their child’s behavior or activities you may be met with resistance. Some adults deny their child’s involvement in a problem situation, some do not care and some adults cuss you out! As a good neighbor, the youth of our neighborhood should be applauded for their achievements, supported for

their success and protected from danger, not tattled on. No one likes a tattler. As a good neighbor, we cannot stand by and let our young people trash the neighborhood, stand in the street in front of traffic and use profanity like it is acceptable. There is a generation gap. Lack of adult involvement is becoming a generational trend. Grown folks should know what is going on in the neighborhood and speak to our young people, with respect. Giving respect may help restore respect for adults. Adults should not try to be friends and pals with young people. Grown people need to act like adults and be available to so that young people can turn to us for help and learning. Adults should not be someone young people come to for a cigarette or worse, something to get high on. Adults that cuss at young people, teach them that profanity is a way to cope with conflict. Most of the negative behavior young people are involved in was learned from grown people. Some negative activities young people are involved in are due to a lack of supervision. Last month several of our youth went behind the North Street School (MLK Jr. Community Center) and tore shingles off the storage shed, sprayed graffiti and set a pile of paper on fire. A child could have been injured falling off the roof or killed by playing with fire. I had tracked down several kids that admitted to tearing shingles from the shed. Who set the fire is still a mystery. It's not their fault; adults can prevent this type of behavior or let it result in death. Last spring several boys could have been shot when a call went out to the police of a handgun on North Street School property. Don Jones disarmed the young men before the police arrived saving the boys from a deadly conflict. In case no one has thanked Don, thanks Don for getting involved. Every capable adult should get involved, help out and contribute something positive to our young people.

#### NOVEMBER 2004

*The following is part of the series of stories submitted by our contest winners for their essays on Tobacco and Cancer. The two stories below are spiritually inspired and written by the daughters of Gateway Ministries Associate Pastor Marcus Abernathy.*

**By Gabrielle Abernathy, age 11**

A cigarette has 40% tobacco and 60% poison. As an 11 year old , I know not to smoke.. I choose life not death.

Besides a cigarette has rat poison, ammonia, and more than 4,000 other chemicals. Nicotine can lead you to cocaine, heroin and other drugs. As of right now any kid that decides not to smoke is more mature than people that smoke. It can cause your body to die. The Bible says, "You are the temple of the Holy Ghost." If your house were messy physically, that would be like smoking in church. When it said, "You are the temple," the two key words are "you" and "temple." I would tell people that smoke or thinking about smoking, to clean up your temple and live in it, or leave it messy and risk dying in it.

**By Andrea Abernathy, age 10**

Smoking is a very harmful and nasty thing. From my opinion I will never ever smoke. It will kill me or make me have lung cancer over the years. I am only 10 and I do not think that I should just quit my life now. I do not think that people should be smoking. God made each and every one of us special just the way we are and He does not want us to ruin our lives for a couple of cigarettes. Smoking is a SIN! God hates it when we sin. He died on the cross for our sins and we should respect that. I went to a Youth Rally and learned a lot of things from a special man named Andy Smith. He taught me why I should not smoke. I learned that if you smoke you can die. No God really, really loves us and does not want us to die. I honestly believe that people should have never laid an eye on a cigarette. I am going to try my best to tell everyone that smoking is bad.

*The following story was written by my loving wife, Mollie Smith for our Youth News series on tobacco dangers. Mollie not only gave up tobacco she went on to work as a youth leader for our No Smoking Youth Club.*

**"My Story About Smoking" by Mollie Smith (published in December 2004)**

*(This story was placed in the Youth News section because the story began when the writer was a teen.)*

I am forty years old and I started smoking when I was 13. I smoked for 27 years. I started smoking in middle school because that is what all my friends were doing. At first I only smoked when I was with my friends, then I found I was smoking alone as well. Smoking to me was a way of relaxation. I enjoyed smoking. I tried a couple of times to stop smoking, but I found I was not ready. As I was getting older, I smoked even more. At age 27, I was diagnosed with Asthma, which I probably developed as a result of smoking. Little things such as climbing stairs and playing with my kids would make me short of breath.

I would have to depend on an inhaler to control my breathing. I had what some call a “smoker’s cough”, that I would deny by saying “I’m catching a cold”. At the age of 40, on my birthday, I had gotten sick. I guess you could say I had hit a low point. I was barely breathing, gasping for air and inhalers weren’t helping.

Just after walking two feet, I had to sit down. Don’t you know, during all of this, I still tried to smoke? On Friday September 10, 2004, I smoked my last cigarette.

For the past two months and 15 days, I have been a non-smoker. I used to think people were obsessing when they talk about how cigarettes make you smell, but now I can smell the smoke on others that smoke. I have to admit, it really doesn’t smell good. I struggle every day with wanting to smoke, but I tell myself that living and breathing are a little more important.

I have noticed that sometimes I still have trouble with breathing, but I don’t depend on an inhaler everyday to help me survive. Walking stairs is gradually getting better. Overall, I think I made the right choice. In closing, I would have to say, quitting smoking is something you have to want to do for yourself or you may never succeed.

(About two years after this article was written, Mollie’s mother, Ruby Henderson died from a smoking related illness)

**DECEMBER 2004**

*Another Letter to the Editor. Payne had a lot to say in her letter below about stepping up, but never got involved when I replied with an invitation for her to get involved.*

**To the Editor:**

I am writing this letter with the hopes that it will touch one to make a change. I am a mother of three and I would like to ask the churches and organizations in this area (neighborhood) a question: Why aren't you doing more for the people in this community (neighborhood)? I ask because there are 7 to 9 churches and 3 to 4 organizations in an eight-block radius. Yet if the kids get to church it is because an "outside" church comes to pick them up.

For those of us that have attended church in this area (neighborhood), know that many seem to be an large collection of clicks that use everything from a last name to personal assets to separate themselves from those that they feel are "less worthy".

The organizations are excuses to brag about the position someone has or being brother "what-ever".

I have one more issue. Why is there no help (in this neighborhood) for single parents at Christmas time or throughout the year? Why should we have to go to an outside source like the Salvation Army, Community Action Council or Social Services? If you are trying to achieve unity, it's not going to happen the way you are doing it now. Having one or two block parties isn't cutting it either.

I will even step up and volunteer to help get something started. Now that I have said what I had to say, I challenge all the churches and organizations (in the neighborhood) to step up and do something to show that Black unity is more than just a once a year emotion we black folks experience during Black History Month.

Just a thought,

**Payne M.**

**Dear Payne:**

While I cannot speak for every church or organization in the neighborhood, I believe you deserve some sort of response.

I'll start by quoting a former President, "I feel your pain." No pun intended with your name. Let me try to explain why our organizations are not doing more to help the neighborhood. Some of the organizations in our neighborhood don't have the bankroll (funds) to do anymore than what they are doing. Also, Groups outside of the neighborhood that can provide the necessary funds won't because they do not want to empower black organizations. Funding institutes deny our organizations using excuses that we don't report outcomes and measurements of our progress. It is not easy to get money from financial resources that wish to allow non-black organizations to provide the outreach to our neighborhood. And it's obvious, they trust their own to do and decide what is best for us. Another reason our organizations don't help is that they were never designed or desired to be outreach oriented. Enough about the organizations. I found it is not my place to judge the churches, God's already judged the churches, read Revelations chapters 2 and 3. As for outside churches that are willing to provide transportation for our children to make it to Sunday school and bibles study, thank God. I have heard ministers complain about "white" churches picking up our children and taking them to receive God's word and love. I will dare to say this much, those who complain are false prophets. Anyone that has read the bible knows the Church is not white or black; the Church is the body of Christ.

As for how churches and organizations do business in this neighborhood, I believe they are wed to their traditions. Perhaps as time and opportunity change, the Lord may lead them to minister to people like yourself who are in need of God's charity and love. It is interesting that when you read between different versions of the Bible, the word "charity" and "love" are the same word and hermeneutic (look that up bible scholars).

For ministers that read this, how much of a conviction or calling do we need as God's disciples to go out and minister to those who are writing us pleading for God's love? I know church folks like to work by the Great Commission outlined in book of Matthew 28:16-20.

I prefer the way the commission was laid out in the book of Mark 16:15-18. A verse in that passage requires workers of the faith to get their hands on the matter. I think Matthew 28 practitioners are satisfied with being all

talk. In our neighborhood, God's workers need to follow Mark's Gospel and lay hands on the situation.

I too have strived to stimulate a unified outreach effort on behalf of the churches and community groups in our neighborhood. Our organization has tried to contact these groups and if you are a faithful reader, you know we had even tried to give money (grants) to the organizations and churches in this neighborhood and barely got a response short of the Memorial Recreation Center joining us this past year with an outreach effort.

I too had to seek churches outside of this neighborhood to help our organization provide outreach to this neighborhood. I too found myself passing judgment on churches in this neighborhood for not reaching out in a way I believed was necessary. Payne you are welcome to volunteer with our organization to serve this neighborhood.

**Andy Smith**



*The following is an email that circulates on the Internet and the author is unknown. So I don't know if the writer is white or a clever black person trying to shock blacks into waking up. It does stir thought.*

**Blacks Don't Read, They are still our slaves.**

We can continue to reap profits from the Blacks without the effort of physical slavery. Look at the current methods of containment that they use on themselves: IGNORANCE, GREED and SELFISHNESS. Their IGNORANCE is the primary weapon of containment. A great man once said, "The best way to hide something from Black people is to put it in a book." We now live the Information Age. They have gained the opportunity to read any book on any subject through the efforts of their fight for freedom, yet they refuse to read. There are numerous books readily available at Borders, Barnes & Nobles, and Amazon.com, not to mention their own Black Bookstores that provides solid blueprints to reach economic equality (which should have been their fight all along), but few read consistently, if at all. GREED is another powerful weapon of containment. Blacks, since the abolition of slavery, have had large



amounts of money at their disposal. Last year they spent 10 billion dollars during Christmas, out of their 450 billion dollars in total yearly income (2.22%). Any of us can use them as our target market, for any business venture we care to dream up, no matter how outlandish, they will buy in to it. Being primarily a consumer people, they function totally by greed. They continually want more, with little thought for saving or investing. They would rather buy some new sneaker than invest in starting a business. Some even neglect their children to have the latest Tommy or FUBU. And they still think that having a Mercedes and a big house gives them “status” or that they have achieved the American Dream. They are fools! The vast majority of their people are still in poverty because their greed holds them back from collectively making better communities. With the help of black entertainment, and the rest of their black media that often broadcast destructive images into their homes, we will continue to see huge profits like those of Tommy and Nike. (One designer has even jeered them, saying he doesn’t want their money, and look at how the fools spend even more with him than before!). They’ll continue to show off to each other while we build solid communities with the profits from our businesses that we market to them. SELFISHNESS, ingrained in their minds through slavery, is one of the major ways we can continue to contain them. One of their own, Dubious said that there was an innate division in their culture. A “Talented Tenth” he called it. He was correct in his deduction that there are segments of their culture that has achieved some “form” of success. However, that segment missed the fullness of his work. They didn’t read that the “Talented Tenth” was then responsible to aid the Non-Talented Ninety-Percent in achieving a better life. Instead, that segment has created another class, a Buppie class (Black Urban Professional) that looks down on their people or aids them in a condescending manner. They will never achieve what we have. Their selfishness does not allow them to be able to work together, their selfishness lets their egos get in the way of their goal. Their so-called help organizations seem to only want to promote their name without making any real change in their community. They are content to sit in conferences and conventions in our hotels, and talk about what they will do, while they award plaques to the best speakers, not the best doers. Is their no end to

their selfishness? They steadfastly refuse to see that **TOGETHER EACH ACHIEVES MORE (TEAM)!** They do not understand that they are no better than each other because of what they own. In fact, most of those Buppies are but one or two paychecks away from poverty. All of which is under the control of our pens in our offices and our boardrooms. Yes, we will continue to contain them as long as they refuse to read, continue to buy anything they want, and keep thinking they are “helping” their communities by paying dues to organizations which do little other than hold lavish conventions in our hotels. By the way, don’t worry about any of them reading this letter, remember, **THEY DON’T READ!**

# Part 5

*“When spider webs unite they can tie up a lion”  
~ Ethiopian Proverb*

### JANUARY 2005

#### **TYANJO Productions usher in new era in Entertainment for Hagerstown by Andy Smith.**

Owners Tyrus Fleetwood, Anthony Young and Rick Scott put on the “Holiday Jazz” concert. The concert had some “technical difficulties” and performance delays that may have led to a number of people walking out. Fortunately those who remained at the concert received the rare treat of an extended performance from Marcus Johnson and his band. MJ’s keyboard was remarkable and I was impressed by the amazing performance of 21 year-old Saxophonist, Marcus Mitchell. Earlier that evening 16 year-old gospel prodigy Janelle McCracken sang vocal solos, she was listed as “Special Guest Singer” and Janelle is certainly a “special” singer. Jeanette Harris rallied the audience with touching Gospel selections from her latest CD. TYANJO owners got on stage, following the concert, thanking everyone for attending and supporting their production efforts. Rick Scott, encouraged everyone to remain in support so that they can continue to bring concerts and talent such as Marcus Johnson to our area instead of having to go to Washington and Baltimore for concerts and performances. Marcus Johnson promised to return and do another concert, He also encouraged everyone to support TYANJO ’s efforts to bring more concerts and entertainment to our community. I thought holding the event at the Elgin Station was a wonderful excellent choice for event. Congratulations to TYANJO.

*(Marcus Johnson kept his promise and returned to Hagerstown and performed at an event held at the Hagerstown Community College in January 2007.)*

### FEBRUARY 2005



*LJ Guillory broke all the unwritten protocol in Washington County concerning the issues of addressing racism and for his troubles he was systematically attacked from both sides of the racial divide. I tried to write the article below to get the public perspective back in focus on the “real” issues.*

**“Get off of Guillory and Get on the Issues? by Andy Smith.**

LeRoy J. Guillory or “LJ” as he is called, has been the focus of a major media event that was brought on by his straight-forwarded attack on the City of Hagerstown concerning the public use of a cable broadcast channel and issues of racism. Guillory’s approach was confrontational and apparently caused bitterness between him and the City, and the conflict spilled over to the Herald Mail. News focus shifted from issues as to why the City of Hagerstown has not responded to a request for a cable access channel for the public to use and how the City of Hagerstown deals with racial issues. The conflict with the Herald Mail and Guillory erupted when the newspaper investigated his past. Guillory responded by publicly criticizing the newspapers investigation of him and alleged they are bias. The corporation that owns the cable company also owns the newspaper. The Herald Mail published Guillory’s criminal past. Guillory circulated flyers to question a reporter’s involvement in the “hate mail” crimes. The Herald Mail wrote more copy on LJ Guillory in one week than they did on the President of the United States. I have not uncovered any reports of Guillory asking for money for any development projects or has he asked for donations for his non-profit organization, “Ombudsmen International”. Time will tell about Guillory’s business interest in the Hagerstown area. I don’t believe he was planning on “ripping off” the community anymore than I believe reporter Gregory Simmons writes hate mail. Both charges are absurd. Guillory hosted a public access program called “The Ombudsman Show”, which was aired in California. Guillory was the host of the show that interviewed famous Hollywood Celebrities and Political candidates. The show may have been his reasons for interest in a public access channel that can air shows like the “Ombudsman Show” and other community programs. The newspaper’s attack on Guillory appeared to have drawn a line between him and the black leadership in Hagerstown. Some blacks have flat out told the local newspaper they would have nothing to do with him, let alone agree with his claims of widespread racism. Guillory “rocked the boat” and dragged out the “dirty old uncle” racism that no one wants to talk about or confront. Brothers United Who Dare To Care submitted a proposal to the City to develop a project that

anyone can turn to resolve issues of racism, intolerance and hatred. Hatred and intolerance should not prevail in a community that is prepared to deal with it. I hope the City politicians, the Herald Mail and the black leaders will not abandon the valid concerns raised by Guillory due to his presentation of the matters. The public will benefit from use of a cable channel. And, we do need a process that can reduce or resolve racial tensions and conflicts like these. I believe more good will come out of this matter than bad. Get off of Guillory and get on the issues.

### MARCH 2005

Letters to the Editor:

**Dear respected member of the Community:**

It is with a full heart that I solicit your support for a “Civil Rights Remembrance and Unity Celebration” to be held on March 8, 2005 at the Elk’s Lodge #278 from 8-11pm. You can be instrumental in supporting this celebration by showing “your face in the place” and watching the election results with a community that loves, unifies and rally’s to support one another.

You can also assist us by lending your financial support or by committing to bring a covered dish. Please let us bring it together once again. We will not allow the sacrifices of our past to be forgotten nor will we allow our new challenges to go without recognition. For more information please feel free to contact me at 240-420-6510.

Thanks for your support,

**Mr. Eric “Bird” Campbell**

**To the Editor:**

In great response to your news article that was put out in the October/November 2004 issue. You mentioned about the torn shingles, fire and etc. and about unsupervised children hanging out in the back of the North Street School building. You seem to forget that I, Moses Norris Jr. the Caretaker of Wheaton Park, also have similar problems at the Park.

Teenagers smoking drugs at the park; throwing liquor bottles at the Park residence; tearing pickets out of the Bandstand railing; plus, graffiti on pavilion tables and cutting the rubber coating off the metal pavilion tables. These teenagers are someone's children, grandchildren or perhaps great-grandchildren. So what I would like to know. How are they going to be "OUR FUTURE"?

**Mr. Moses Norris Jr.**

*(Moses, 52 has recently left to join his National Guard unit in Iraq for a tour of duty. We wish for his safe return and pray for his safety and that of all our troops).*



*The article below is about one of the "true" issues that LJ Guillory challenged a public access channel for the citizens of Hagerstown. The City of Hagerstown has a Cable Franchise Agreement with the local cable company that has a provision to allow up to two cable access channels for the public. We met with the City to ask for a public access channel to be activated in 2005. It's 2007, still no channel.*

**HPAC to meet with City of Hagerstown for Citizens Cable Broadcast Channel.**

Approaching one year since the Hagerstown Public Access Corporation asked the City of Hagerstown to request the Public channel from Antietam Cable Company per the City's Cable Franchise Agreement. The City had not move forward on the request citing "financial" reason. Citizen Cable channels are normally supported with funding from Cable Franchise Fees and PEG Fees. PEG stands for Public, Education and Government. The City of Hagerstown has operated a channel for government use going on two years and has since increased its programming efforts since HPAC had requested use of a citizen's channel. The Public School System and Hagerstown Community College has shared a channel for over a year. HPAC leaders hope that the City will at least request a channel be designated. The channel can empower the citizens of Hagerstown. Non-profit groups such as HPAC will offer to raise money to manage the channel.

*The following article sparked a hate mail response from convicted felon Jeff Shifler a former Boonsboro Police Officer that had been fired from the Hagerstown Police Department. Jeff Shifler was arrested by the FBI for his crimes, convicted, sentenced and sent to a federal prison.*

### **AJAMU & MWAMBA: Myths and Facts**

**“What the New Black Panthers Want, What The New Black Panthers Believe”** (Submitted by Mwamba Raheem, Secretary BUWDTC)

#### **New Black Panther Party 10 point program**

1. We want freedom. We want the power to practice self-determination, and to determine the destiny of our community and THE BLACK NATION.
2. We want full employment for our people and we demand the dignity to do for ourselves what we have begged the white man to do for us.
3. We want tax exemption and an end to robbery of THE BLACK NATION by the CAPITALIST. We want an end to the capitalistic domination of Africa in all of its forms: imperialism, criminal settler colonialism, neo-colonialism, racism, sexism, Zionism, Apartheid and artificial borders.
4. We want decent housing, fit for shelter of human beings, free health-care (preventive and maintenance). We want an end to the trafficking of drugs and to the biological and chemical warfare targeted at our people.
5. We want education for our people that exposes the true nature of this devilish and decadent American society. We want education that teaches us our true history/herstory and our role in the present day society.



We believe in an educational system that will give our people “a knowledge of self.” If we do not have knowledge of self and of our position in society and the world, then we have little chance to properly relate to anything else.

6. We want all Black Men and Black Women to be exempt from military service.

7. We want an immediate end to POLICE HARRASSMENT, BRUTALITY and MURDER of Black People. We want an end to Black-on-Black violence, “snitching,” cooperation and collaboration with the oppressor.

8. We want freedom for all Black Men and Black Women held in international, military, federal, state, county, city jails and prisons.

9. We want all Black People when brought to trial to be tried in a court by a jury of their peer group or people from their Black Communities, as defined by white law of the Constitution of the United States.

10. WE DEMAND AN END TO THE RACIST DEATH PENALTY AS IT IS APPLIED TO BLACK AND OPPRESSED PEOPLE IN AMERICA. WE DEMAND FREEDOM FOR ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS OF THE BLACK RED AND BROWN NATION!

*For full the Ten-Point Platform or to join the New Black Panther Party write: P.O. Box 4481 Washington DC 20017, Website: [www.newblackpanther.com](http://www.newblackpanther.com) or email: [info@newblackpanther.com](mailto:info@newblackpanther.com).*

**APRIL 2005**

**Historic event not reported by local media, nevertheless, Change will come!**

On February 22, 2005 in the Hagerstown City Council Chambers, the City of Hagerstown presented representatives from the black community with a proclamation that encouraged all Americans to reflect on the past successes and challenges of African Americans and to look to the future to continue to improve society so that we live up to the ideals of freedom, equality and justice. Following the proclamation, black citizens were allowed to put on a Civil Rights audio/visual presentation. The poem below was read to over sixty people in the Council Chambers that night of which several black families were present and came forth following the reading. This event was broadcast live from the City Council Chambers and re-broadcast several times on Antietam Cable channel 6. Story of the event was not reported by the Herald Mail's City Hall reporter Greg Simmons, Simmons said he did not see what the event had to do with City business. 25 Alive news correspondent Victor Blackwell wrote that his production manager was not interested in the historical event. A video recording of the channel 6 broadcast is available in the Anne Vesta Doleman Library or by contacting Karen Giffin at Hagerstown City Hall. Below is the poem that concluded the presentation.



*The poem below was read during a special segment of the February 22, 2005 Hagerstown City Council Meeting in which BUWDTC was given a Proclamation for Black History Month and the group was allowed to show an audio-visual presentation summarizing the Civil Rights Movement. The event was the first of it's kind and in the following months Hagerstown elected It's first Black City Council member: Alesia Parson-McBean. In 2007 Earl Stoner was appointed Health Officer of the Washington County Health Department. Change has come.*

### **Change is Going to Come**

By Andy Smith

I am Change and I must come,  
I must come because Bias, Prejudice and Indifference must go.  
I must come to bring Respect, Unity and Tolerance for all.  
Change is going to come.

The lack of diversity in the public schools,  
The unfair treatment in the workplace,  
And the lack of respect for women,  
These things must go.  
Change is going to come.

I am change, and  
I may not have the following of Malcolm X,  
I may not have the patience of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.  
I may not make the sacrifices of Nelson Mandela, nevertheless  
Change is going to come!

I am change,  
I will come to you,  
Change with or without you,  
I will take a stand for what is just,  
And fight if I must!

Hello! I am Change,  
And Change is going to come!

**MAY 2005**

**How does a “Parking Deck” justify Community Development Block Grant Funds?**

It is refreshing to see that the City has reinstated the Memorial Recreation Center on the proposed CDBG funds. Keyword is “proposed”. The final budget accepted and voted on by the City Council will express the true support of the City for CDBG requests. BUWDTC applied for funding to

help establish a Minority Affairs and Diversity Education program, which we believe can help offset racial conflicts and provide a venue for diversity efforts. Our request did not meet this Fiscal Year's criteria to receive CDBG funds. No shock. This will be BUWDTC's third year being rejected for CDBG funds. It seems that any plan we present to the Community Development office to get the City to back Minority Development projects, receives no money to show the City's commitment. The CDBG application states that: "Hagerstown develops its own programs and funding priorities and ensures that they meet HUD's guidelines for eligibility and that they meet one of HUD's national objectives. HUD's national objectives include: At least 70% of project expenditures must benefit low and moderate income persons; A maximum of 30% of project expenditures can aid in the prevention or elimination of blight".

For the second year in a row the CBDG proposal has carried a line item requesting funds for an "A&E District Parking Deck" with this year's price tag a whopping \$265,000 request. The CDBG proposal also carries a \$324,349 request for "General Program Administration". Could Program Administration support a Minority Affairs office? Whether the City wants to back a Minority Affairs or Diversity program will remain to be seen. I just can't figure out how a Parking Deck justifies the use Community Development Block Grant Funds. How does the parking deck help low to moderate income?

### JUNE 2005

#### **What will you do to keep our children from being thrown out of school or winding up in jail?**

It has come to my attention that at least three black children have been thrown out of Western Heights Middle School just before the end of the school year and told they also have failed their grade. Some offenses, I was told, were misbehavior during In School Suspension (ISS). Western Heights is big on ISS. One child's parent responded by having a conference with Western Heights' officials, now her child is going to be passed on to the next grade. I too had a similar experience with this

school. In fact, I removed my son and put him in private school after he was assaulted by an aide. As for my other two children that were to return to Western Height Middle School, I plan to move them to another school. My one daughter had her desk removed for falling asleep in class; she suffers from a medically treated sleep disorder. My son was segregated in his music class. I do offer a solution. I asked Dr. Elizabeth Morgan about starting a Charter School, one that the community can hire qualified professionals from throughout the country, as they did in Washington DC. Educators that have experience working with at-risk minority children. We need to lower the number of minority children being kicked out of school and reduce the number of minorities children in the juvenile justice system. Minority Disparities is the political issue and unfortunately it is a reality. There are people in the public school system, like North High's principal Robert "Bo" Meyers, that are willing to work to eliminate Minority Disparities. What will you do to keep our children from being thrown out of school or winding up in jail?

### JULY 2005

#### **Basketball program honors Mrs. Ruthann Monroe.**

Over a hundred people gathered at Wheaton Park to honor Mrs. Ruthann Monroe for her contribution to the Wheaton Park Summer League Basketball program. The program is one of the longest running youth basketball leagues in the County and at one point the City of Hagerstown had made an offer to move the program to the Fairgrounds Park. The significance of the program is that it is also one of the longest standing institutions held in Hagerstown's historical black Jonathan Street neighborhood. The program is over twenty-five years old and generations of children male and female have had the opportunity to play in this league. The Memorial Recreation Center, under Mrs. Monroe has solidified that the league will continue to be a program that all children can look forward to participating in each summer. The tribute was led by West Virginia University senior and Hagerstown native Shaun Bowers. Bowers struggled with the effort to have the summer basketball program named after Monroe. Shaun took on a mission to manifest this project

before the program was too far in to the summer. Shaun wanted a banner to visibly be displayed on Wheaton Park signifying the basketball league and with Mrs. Ruthann Monroe's name. On Sunday June 26<sup>th</sup> that vision became a reality. The summer league basketball players, coaches and spectators witnessed the program being named and dedicated the "Annual Ruthann V. Monroe Summer Basketball League". In a ceremony opened in prayer by Pastor Darin Mency, Mrs. Monroe was presented with a plaque in recognition for her service to the league.

### AUGUST 2005

#### **Will Hagerstown participate in the Million Father March?**

When men are involved in the educational lives of their children, children learn more and perform better in school and in life. The major work of the *Million Father March 2005* is to get fathers to take their children back to school on the first day of school. Phillip Jackson, the Black Star Project, expects more than 100 cities to participate in the *Million Father March 2005*. While this event is conceived by and sponsored by Black men, men of all races and women are invited to participate in the *Million Father March 2005*. This will be a rolling event that will take place on the first day of the school year between August 8, 2005 and October 1, 2005. Marches will be registered and coordinated with The Black Star Project's *Million Father March Central* headquarters in Chicago.

### SEPTEMBER 2005

#### **Food for Thought**

An interesting set of letters dated August 24, 2005 from City of Hagerstown Director of Economic Development, Deborah A. Everhart read, "The Economic Development Office for the City of Hagerstown is pleased and excited to announce that we are compiling an inventory of minority business owners and operators in Hagerstown..." One of the two letters opens with, "Dear Minority-Owned Business" and the other letter

opens, “Dear Women-Owned Business Enterprise”. Each letter has a definition of what a minority business is. The one “By definition a minority businesses is made up of a business that is 51% owned and operated by a minority”, the other “By definition a minority businesses is made up of a business that is 51% owned by a woman”.

So I am led to think that a white couple that has a business that the wife has 51% of the ownership, the business is a “Minority Business”. Does the one definition mean that a business owned by a white couple can compete and use minority business resources that should help Black, Hispanic, Asian and Native owned Businesses?

Did you know that a white person exiled from South Africa and given U.S. Citizenship is an African-American who qualifies for assistance for African-Americans?

The point. Who is going to be given priority over the resources to help “Minority” owned businesses? Food for Thought.

#### **Neighborhood organization Sabbath Farms leads a Relief effort for Hurricane victims.**

Sabbath Farms, located in the Foy Media Center (former Moller Pipe Organ factory), is following through with an effort to help Hurricane Katrina victims after being inspired with the idea from Darryl Echols. Echols, working with William Frazier of Sabbath Farms and others, approached local black business owners using a list compiled by Brothers United Who Dare To Care, and received a favorable response from the black business owners. Second phase of their operation was notifying the twelve churches in the Jonathan Street neighborhood from the BUWDTC list. The third step was gathering and delivering donations to Katrina victims. William Frazier said the final step is a report of the “Relief Drive” accomplishments. Sabbath Farms, Inc is a non-profit 501(c) 3 organization and contributions are Tax Deductible. The Sabbath Farms Thrift Shop is located at 403 N. Prospect Street in Hagerstown.

#### **Community patron June Wright passed on.**

June Wright, known lately for her campaign to help others get checked for cancer, leading programs like the Annual Colon Cancer Awareness

program and appearing in TV commercials that drew blacks to get involved. Wright also championed the educational potential of young people with programs that awarded trust funds for education. A cancer victim herself, Wright never allowed her the battle with the illness to control her life. She instead worked to help others have a better life. June Wright was a contribution to her community and a solid influence to her family and friends.

### OCTOBER 2005

#### **The time is now, Get Busy!**

Rosa Parks will lie in state in the Capital Rotunda in Washington D.C., Washington County is forming a Muslim Student Association and Hagerstown has a Black elected official, Alesia Parson-McBean. It is little known that I shared a prophetic message about coming change during a special segment of the February 22, 2005 Hagerstown City Council Meeting. At the February meeting, the City of Hagerstown gave a written Proclamation for Black History Month, and allowed our group to show a short movie feature summarizing the Civil Rights Movement. The program was aired on the City's government cable access channel. There was no local media report for the message I shared titled, "Change is going to come". Surely change has arrived. More hope to promote diversity and tolerance in our community is solidifying. We recently contacted an organization that studies communities and helps to make them more diverse. The organization is within an hour from this area. Progress is often challenged with opposition and as our city literally grows, our conflicts emerge as well. Anonymous threats against the popular Mummer's Parade in Hagerstown, and a 15 year-old student packing a pistol during a scuffle at school are alarming indicators of resistance to diversity. Our office still gets threatening hate mail. We refuse to give insecure hate mongers the media attention we had in the past. Hate mongers fear equality and change. Insecurity craves attention. Hateful people seeking attention can use the media. Instead, look at the



progressive change our community is making during these turbulent times of growth. Growth is good if everyone is given the opportunity for positive growth. Better schools are needed; better wages and affordable healthcare must be a part of growth. We still do not have a citizen cable access television channel, even though the County Government is in a bargaining position to help the citizens get a channel. A citizen cable access channel will give the citizens the opportunity to broadcast programs when the local newspaper and news station refuse to cover events like the February presentation at City Hall. The government channel provided exclusive coverage of the event. Citizens should have the same diverse opportunity to use cable access television. A local youth center is in need of resources to continue its success. We do not need to wait for help to arrive or change to come. Change has happened and you are the help. When people step up and get involved, we can outweigh the conflicts and minimize the challenges our community must deal with. The time is now. Get busy!



*I was using the bathroom at home when Jade knocked on the door and said, “Look at my declaration of independence.” I opened the door and accepted her “declaration”, which I thought was a bold action, being that it was allowance time at the Smith house and she had not even received hers yet. I looked over her declaration and I was impressed and asked her if she wanted to submit it for the Youth News section. She said yes and there you have it. Last year Jade told me that she wants to attend Harvard Law School. I do believe she is serious. I think there is still an opening on the U.S. Supreme Court. What are her chances?*

### **Everything is Fair! (A Declaration of Independence) By Jade Smith\***

I, Jade Smith, am writing to declare that people of all races are free to do as they please within the limits of the American law. Women and men are equal. No man or woman should be forced to do something they don't want to do. Everyone has the freedom of speech. At the appropriate times, everyone's voice shall be heard.

Over the years, women and people of color were treated different from white men. From this day on women and people of color are to do as they please and are allowed to fight for their rights. Any man or woman shall be punished for breaking the laws.

African men and woman have the right to run as a representative of America. I Jade Smith, a citizen of the United States of America declare every state in America independent and free at all times.

**“No Child Left Behind – a Tribute to the Late Mrs. Ruthann Monroe” by Andy Smith**

“No child left behind” is a national law and also a golden rule Mrs. Ruthann Monroe lived by. Ms. Ruthann, as I called her, spent her life working with children. Her work as a preschool teacher and Sunday school teacher, led her to become the director of the neighborhood youth center and Superintendent of her Sunday school. Fitting for a woman with a large family of children and grand children. Ms. Ruthann did what she could to give young people something positive to do. She worked hard to keep the Memorial Recreation Center operating, so young people could have a place to go. At the center Ms. Ruthann could often be found upstairs surrounded by a group of children, boys and girls, engaged in a cooking activity or other learning activity. I myself had the good fortune of walking in on a session when chicken backs were being cooked. Other times, Ms. Ruthann was organizing the summer basketball league that enjoyed 25 years under her care. Then there were the times Ms. Ruthann spent out back of the center with John Williams getting the swimming pool ready for another season. Despite challenges in funding her programs, Ms. Ruthann continued to help whatever child walked through the doors of the center or onto the basketball court at Wheaton Park and the North Street School gym. Ms. Ruthann has impacted many lives in such a way that she will continue to live on. My wish for her family is, the peace in knowing that the good work she has done in others is reflected in the lives of her children and the many other lives she had touched. My hope is that we will rise to the occasion to continue Ms. Ruthann's work at the Memorial Recreation Center so that the center will

continue to operate and thrive. The Memorial Recreation Center will need more than just your money to continue and thrive. The center needs what Mrs. Ruthann Monroe did for the program. No Child Left Behind.

*(A 7-minute movie of Ms. Ruthann's speech at her retirement banquet at the Plaza Hotel is available on CD-ROM in the library at the Brothers United Who Dare To Care office)*

### NOVEMBER 2005

#### **“Doing what your Father tells you.” by Andy Smith**

I was having lunch with my wife and daughter, part way through our meal the waitress told us that our meal had been paid for. I looked about to see if I could find the person responsible for such kindness. I eventually searched the restaurant and approached the person who showed such love. I thanked the person and the person merely replied, “I was only doing what God told me”. Kindness and helping others is what I try to teach my children to do. After all children should listen to their fathers. It was such a blessing for my daughter to witness someone doing what God the Father told them to do.

### DECEMBER 2005

*This issue of Speak Up carried a two-page Photo Gallery of pictures from the November “Turkey Bowl”.*

#### **Wheaton Park “Turkey Bowl” tradition alive and well after more than 30 years. by Andy Smith**

A small group of spectators gathered on Thanksgiving and braved the weather on one of the coldest days this year to watch the Wheaton Park Turkey Bowl. The game originated over 30 years ago in which players from the Jonathan Street neighborhood picked sides, normally made up of guys 25 years old or younger lined up against those over 25 years old. This year's game may have had a “duke's mixture” of both. Squads lined up sometimes 12 players on each side, perhaps too keep warm with the extra bodies or just to keep the game moving. Generally the game is good clean fun. Played until the players are called to their Thanksgiving meal. I

recall the year I hung up my spikes after losing the toenail off one of my big toes. I took losing a toenail, as a sign to get out while the getting was good. During the 70's when the Hagerstown Bears Football team was around, Pete Lockley would show up with a van full of equipment, including uniforms and everyone playing could suit up. During those gridiron days of the Turkey Bowl, players were carried off field with broken limbs. Still it was good clean fun. After the era of using shoulder pads participants continued to play. Full contact till this day! Having played fifteen years into the Turkey Bowl, I considered myself fortunate to only have left a toenail out on the field. I recalled the year my cousin George Thompson, a Physician's Assistant, left the field in an ambulance with a broken limb. It is hard to watch the Turkey Bowl from the sidelines. Like me, you fight the impulse to get into your sweats and jump in for a couple of plays. As I was leaving, I saw a 25-year Turkey Bowl veteran, John "Clem" Preston Jr. approaching the park to watch the game. I asked Clem why he was not playing and he answered, "I haven't played in two years, when you hit that 40 year old mark its time to quit". Wisely put, but I recalled seeing at least one or two players in this year's game that I know are close to my age. So there is Turkey Bowl for life after 40. So to all those who have played in the years gone by I salute you and I dedicate this story to one of the Turkey Bowl's greats, the late Steve Moses. I believe if Steve were with us today, he would run a couple of downs to help keep the spirit of the tradition strong. Players keep playing.

# Part 6

*“What the child says he has heard at home”  
~ Nigerian Proverb*

## JANUARY 2006

**What happened to “Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.”?**

I have taken notice to a disrespectful trend here in our nation. Perhaps in attempts to be politically correct or to make issues more palatable, we have taken the liberty to modify names and titles. I had received an email during the Christmas holiday’s that brought to my attention that the retail industry has taken the word “Christmas” out of the store ads and displays. See if you find the word Christmas in stores next holiday season. I was also informed that Christmas trees are to be referred to as a “holiday tree”. What sort of mess are we getting into? The United States of America was established by Christians. Christian leaders such as the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. helped to make this nation a better place for all to be treated fair and equal. The Rev. Dr. King and other Christian leaders worked together to spread Christian salvation throughout America and realized they could not do so in a nation that was racially segregated. The Christian leaders addressed the social justice issue at the time and spearhead successful civil rights victories. Now it seems the reward for Dr. King’s efforts will be that he is celebrated as “MLK Day”. No reference to the ministerial title, “Reverend”. No consideration for his “Doctorates” degree.

Former FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover boasted in private that he never referred to Martin Luther King Jr. as Reverend or Doctor. One political website paints a profile of Dr. King as undeserving of his educational accomplishments. Why the hate and disrespect? It is a pattern of our American culture, to be sarcastic and disrespectful of any useful Christian position. I don’t know why people fear or despise Christianity or the Christian representatives. Could it be the public display and actions of prosperity preachers or the criminal behavior of some Christian leader? I know philosophy says, “Don’t kill the messenger”. I say, “Stop killing the message”. Dr. King, the messenger, was killed. Don’t be a part of killing his message. Give the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. the respect he honestly deserves for accomplishing his mission, spreading the love of Christ.

## FEBRUARY 2006



*Besides writing this book, this project in the article below is one of the contributions I wish to make to society. The project such cultural and economic potential, I hope that it happens in my lifetime. The benefit of non-profit and government organizations utilizing the center hold gatherings, conferences and trainings will be cost effective alternative to using expensive hotels and conference centers. The history and cultural exhibition rooms will attract people into a community that needs to be the stage of positive and beneficial activities despite a reputation forced upon it. The Jonathan Street neighborhood, like most black communities throughout the United States was self-contained and prosperous with all sorts of businesses and conveniences. Desegregation allowed blacks to do business outside of their own people and communities then the neighborhood businesses and economic development suffered. The movie "Lackawanna Blues" summed up the effects of gentrification on once prosperous black neighborhoods. The Black History & Multicultural Center will give alternatives to spending "big" dollars on community functions and banquets. The Multicultural component allows for a gathering place for people of all colors and cultures. Minorities can have a central location for community outreach instead of building separate Black, Latino, Asian or Native American centers. Truly this vision gives a chance to bring the human family together as one.*

**The Black History & Multicultural Center project of Hagerstown**

A Black History & Multicultural Center can help increase tourism in the Hagerstown/Washington County area. The Center can revitalize historical Jonathan Street neighborhood. The predominantly black inner-city neighborhood does not have a "true" community center; there are several community buildings in the neighborhood. The advantage of the Black History & Multicultural Center is that the neighborhood will have something to offer the rest of the area and the facility can hold several useful and self-supporting community functions. Below is an outline of those components:

1. **Black History Museum and Gift Shop** – there is no functioning black history museum in Hagerstown/Washington County. The Doleman Black Heritage Museum site is under renovation and there is not a determined date that it will reopen. Having a facility that can properly house exhibits from collections such as the Doleman Museum can allow visits from the public schools and other educational programs interested in Black Heritage and culture.. The museum component will stimulate cultural appreciation and serve as a platform for diversity education. A nominal fee or donations to tour the museum can help it to be self-sustaining. The Gift Shop will also help with cost of the museum.
2. **Black Heritage Library & Diversity Education wing** – the Doleman Black Heritage Library is a component of the Brothers United Who Dare To Care resource center and is currently housed in the second floor of the Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center. The second floor of the MLK Center is not accessible to people in wheel chairs or people who cannot climb stairs. The Doleman Black Heritage Library is the largest collection of black heritage books, periodicals and videos in Washington County. The move of the library to the Black History & Multicultural Center will enable everyone the opportunity to use its resources. The Diversity Education wing will also have resource computers and can be the site for addressing diversity issues and giving diversity trainings. Brothers United Who Dare To Care currently has a dozen young people in a training program that expand that expanded into a youth club funded by the Maryland Department of Health & Mental Hygiene and the Washington County Health Department. A lager education wing can serve more young people.
3. **Citizen’s T.V. studio** – a citizen’s T.V. studio will serve to meet the needs of the public to make use of the non-existing public access cable channel. Having a studio for the public to use and



produce programming can be cost effective and can also serve as a Head End for connection to the cable company and move the local government to mandate the release of a channel for the citizens to use. City Government and the School system currently have and use a channel through the City's Cable Franchise Agreement.

4. **Community Conference/Banquet Room with a stage** – the conference room can serve as a community training room. The room can also be used for community events like the MLK Scholarship Tea and the No Smoking Neighborhood Youth Rally and other events. A stage will be an added feature to attract other community events like the Holiday Jazz concert put on by Tyanjo Productions that recently attract Jazz Pianist Marcus Johnson to perform in Hagerstown. The neighborhood currently uses the MLK Center gym that has no air conditioning and is overheated in the winter when programs are held there. People who are doing outreach to minorities or wanting to host minority events and functions can do so in this facility.
5. **Minority Affairs offices (for Black, Hispanic, Asian and Indian Affairs)** – Multiple minority groups can have a place and office to deal with minority affairs such as: health, education, jobs, housing, home and business ownership. The minority affairs office can also give the entire community a place to deal with racial and cultural issues.
6. **Multi Cultural Food Court with indoor/outdoor café** – the Food Court can be a center attraction that offers various cultural food experiences and the food court can also generate revenue for the center.

The abandoned Coca Cola Bottling Works building site located in the Jonathan Street neighborhood in Hagerstown has the capacity for the Black History & Multicultural Center to house multiple community operations.

**MARCH 2006**

*In a Herald Mail newspaper story William G. Christoffel, former Health Officer for the Washington County Health Department, tried to blame the public school system for the rise in teen pregnancies. Washington County was ranked forth in the state of Maryland for teen pregnancies. Below was the response I wrote about the issue.*

**Should Public Schools share the responsibility for the rise in Teen Pregnancies?**

No more would I trust Airline Security to keep me safe in the air, than would I put the responsibility or blame on the public schools for teen pregnancy. When are we going to come to the realization that the Government should basically help us with our national security, the regulation of business/commerce and the regulation of public utilities? The mighty “Christian” nation that we are, has slacked in what we as a people are responsible for. I expect the Government to make sure I can afford the electricity and water I use; keep my home from being robbed or burned to the ground; and to help keep our cities safe and our businesses fair. I don’t keep my hopes up and expectations for any other services I receive from the government as I see more fade away.

The education system in our nation may not be all we desire or expect, but I believe it is one of the best around the world.

Sure, I would like school vouchers for my children so that I could use at a school of my choice. Heck, I would even like to see a couple of Charter Schools in Washington County. Competition is good for the consumer. I would in no way blame or put the responsibility for the pregnancy of my daughters on the School System or the Health Department. I am a parent and I hope the education I am providing to my daughters and my son are the foundation for their convictions in the decision to get involved in actions that could lead to pregnancy or the spread of STD’s (sexually transmitted diseases). I am not saying that my children could not be involved in a teen pregnancy. I know that my children should know better

and I am actively involved in helping my children make good choices. And, like most parents, I also hope and pray. I believe parents are at fault when they avoid educating their children about sex. Parents would be crazy if they expect the schools or the health department to provide all the answers for prevention of teen pregnancies. The Health Department has been given an obligation to help keep us healthy. The LHD (local health department) tries to reduce and eliminate the spread of diseases and health disparities. Brothers United Who Dare To Care as an organization is actively involved in helping the Health Department be successful in their mission and we as citizens can help to take responsibility for our health. It is a waste of time to blame the schools and health department or allow them to decide what is good for our children. Parents should be involved in the process. Or, the government will continue to be the only process to help our teens. Local government agencies are struggling with who is the blame for the increase in teen pregnancies. Neither the schools nor the health department gave birth to our children. We did. We should be responsible for our youth's success.

**The Hagerstown YMCA 2006 Black History Month Celebration.**

The annual event drew over a 100 people and included the reading of a letter of support from U.S. Senator Barbara Mikulski. Ms. Julianna Albowitz read the letter on Senator Mikulski's behalf and the resolution included words honoring the late Coretta Scott King and local patriarch Mrs. Ruthann Monroe. Soloists Olivia Dorsey, Mrs. Melissa Miller, Mrs. Gwen Nelson and Zulekha Pitts sang heartfelt selections. Teen Achiever Gregory Walton moved the room with his Hip-hop ballet "Young Gifted & Black". The talented and gifted Saint James School Choir accompanied by Mrs. Grigsby gave an outstanding performance. Pianists Lelia Swayne and Hsiang-Yu "Jessie" Chen (Saint James School Choir) played remarkable piano selections. The Jazz Flute selection of Mr. Ron Forsh (Krystal Music) completed the musical contributions for the Black History celebration. Mr. Joseph Summers (Camp Curtin YMCA Harrisburg PA) was the keynote speaker and delivered a convicting message that "Black History is about being a blessing to people". Mr. Summers told those in

attendance that they were “writing history right now”. A local Black History program would not be complete without a reciting of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. ‘s “I Have Dream Speech” from Reverend Darin Mency. Pastor Mency recited the speech with such a passion and zeal, that it took you back to the presence and spirit Dr. King’s message. The YMCA’s Mr. Michael Flicek gave thanks and closing remarks.

#### APRIL 2006



*The Washington County Commissioners never responded to the article below and I personally see to it that they receive a monthly copy of the Speak Up newsletter. This would not be the first time the Commissioners failed to respond to an invitation to visit the center that County funding maintains. To the County’s credit the newly appointed County Administrator, Greg Murray attended the 2007 No Smoking Youth Club Banquet and shared an encouraging message with our young people and their guest. The Washington County government has been under harsh criticism for not hiring blacks into top-level positions or funding black programs and organizations.*

#### **Washington County Commissioner should visit building in question of funding.**

County Commissioner John Munson should have talked with tenants that use the Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center before suggesting that the county sell or give away the building. The Herald Mail newspaper reported that Commissioner Munson had issues with the county budget including funding to help maintain the building. The Commissioner is questioning why the county is paying for the upkeep of the Martin Luther King Center. He believes the County does not use the building, when in fact the county uses it as a warehouse to store office equipment and furniture. Commissioner Munson seems to wonder if the building is a lemon because the county offered to give the building away. Anyone who thinks the center is a lemon is insensitive to the community that uses the facility. Some people in this area are aware of the significance of the Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center and there are those who

understand that the center is a place for all people, not just those in the predominantly black neighborhood.

I cannot speak for the preschool program, in the Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center, that brings millions of dollars into Washington County to serve our children's educational needs. I cannot speak on behalf of the CSAFE program in the Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center. CSAFE deals with numerous organizations working to lower the impact of crime in our communities including the threat of our children being recruited into deadly gang activity. Children In Need's name speak for itself as to whom they serve from the Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center.

What I can tell you about is Brothers United Who Dare To Care, in the Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center. We have been serving the community since 1996, after the crack cocaine plague almost devastated the neighborhood where the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center is located. The Martin Luther King Jr. Center has given us a strategic advantage of being in a location that carries great significance and historic value as the former North Street School that was once attended by most of the parents and grandparents of black folks from this town. The Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center is the meeting point and location for most programs set to reach out to the blacks in this area. While the Jonathan Street neighborhood cannot represent the 12,000 blacks in Washington County, the Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center is a starting point to reach those blacks. Our office works to facilitate that outreach to blacks and other minorities. Our organization has developed the only Minority Affairs office in Washington County working to promote racial, gender and religious tolerance. Our Minority Affairs office offers diversity training and works to resolve discrimination grievances. We have a Minority Affairs Team of Black, Hispanic, Asian and Native American Indian representatives that deal with health, education, employment, housing, home ownership and business ownership as well as racial disparities and social justice issues. For several years our office has served as the Minority Outreach & Technical Assistance (MOTA) office in Washington County for Maryland's Department of Health & Mental Hygiene. We also have a Community Outreach Team

that has increased the opportunities of other organizations working to promote diversity and reduce minority disparities. Our Minority Affairs & Community Outreach Teams lead panel discussions and give trainings that increase diversity education and tolerance. I hope that matters to Commissioner John Munson.

Commissioner Snook said the county offered to give the building away free and pay a group to take it. Our group under my administration would like an opportunity to go over such an offer, in detail. Until such a time, consider this an open invitation to County Commissioner John Munson and the other County Commissioners to please come and visit the Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center and the programs that benefit from the county covering the cost to maintain the center.

#### MAY 2006

##### **Elder Mency named Pastor of Greater Campher Temple (King's Apostles Holiness Church in Hagerstown)**

Elder Darin Mency was appointed pastor of Greater Campher Temple a church in the King's Apostles Holiness Church of God World Ministries. Pastor Mency, who is the Founder and Pastor of Ekklesia Ministries, was an Associate Pastor at Greater Campher before he left to follow a calling to start a diverse ministry focused on community outreach. Pastor Mency said Christians are charged to reach out, edify and educate non-believers in the community as well as the believers of Christ. Elder Mency who has served in ministry since 1986, was born in the state of Georgia and raised in Boston, Massachusetts, where he attended college and married his wife, Helen Mency. Helen was attending college at Providence when the two met. The couple both played basketball in college before Darin served in the Full Gospel Tabernacle ministry where he also studied. Pastor Mency's mother, Evangelist Dr. Nancy Mency, also attended the Full Gospel Tabernacle Bible Institute where she received her Doctorate of Divinity. When Pastor Mency came to Hagerstown he was part of the ministry at Ebenezer African Methodist Episcopal Church on Bethel Street under the leadership of Pastor Leroy Jackson. Pastor Mency later crossed Jonathan Street to the other end of Bethel Street and joined the ministry

efforts at the King's Apostles Holiness Church under the leadership of the late pastor Bishop Derek Hillary Kee. While in service to Greater Campher, Elder Mercy led outreach efforts with the help of his wife and other church members to have breakfast and dinner kitchens for those in need of a meal. His wife Helen Mercy wrote grants so that the church could get involved in community health projects through the local health department. Elder Mercy followed a call to open a fellowship that was actually held in a community center. In 2002 Ekklesia Ministries was formed and had church services at the Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center. Conditions were not always favorable for Sunday morning services held in the community center's gymnasium, that does not have air conditioning. Nevertheless, Pastor Mercy and his congregation met and conducted fervent worship services that Pastor Mercy would welcome all to, "come and worship freely in the Spirit". And that, they did. Later in 2005 pastor Mercy and his congregation at Ekklesia Ministries moved to a location on Pennsylvania Avenue out across the city line in Hagerstown. Since this April, Pastor Mercy and the members of Ekklesia Ministries blended with the congregation at Greater Campher Temple. He will be officially installed as pastor in a ceremony to be held at Hagerstown City Park, which will be attended by city officials and other dignitaries. When asked about the former leadership of Ekklesia Ministries, Pastor Mercy said that those who were consecrated and held office in Ekklesia Ministries will be transferred in their positions to serve at Greater Campher Temple in the King's Apostle Holiness Church of God World Ministries. Ekklesia Ministries was also known for their work in youth ministry of which his wife Helen was a part. Helen's service with children outside of her ministry work has led her to a position of Superintendent of the Western Maryland Children's Center on Roxbury Road in Hagerstown. The couple lives in Hagerstown with their two children, Darin Jr. and Kiona. Darin Jr. follows his parents' passion for basketball and plays on the basketball team at one of the local public high schools.

#### JUNE 2006



*A new era had come for the Memorial Recreation Center's leadership due to the death of community patriarch Mrs. Ruth Ann*

*Monroe. The MRC is a youth center in the predominantly black Jonathan Street neighborhood and struggles to keep center open to serve young people in the community despite the lack of funding. Washington County Maryland is a community where small Community Based Organizations must compete with national organizations like the Boys & Girls Club, the YMCA and Girls Inc. The track record to support minority programs in Washington County is horrible. Minorities that lack the capacity to have or appoint grant writers and project developers lose out on funding. Who's on your board of directors (the good old boy system) impacts who will get what. These remarks are not from the Memorial Recreation Center and are not intended for the MRC to be disregarded or despised. The remarks are my own and need to be made known. Nevertheless the "Rec", as it is known throughout the Jonathan Street neighborhood has endured and I hope it holds on until its moment to rise.*

### **Memorial Recreation Center names a new Director**

**By Andy Smith**

Kimberly Buchanan was hired as the Director of the Memorial Recreation Center to help carry on the vision of Mrs. Ruthann Monroe, said MRC board member Gary Holman. Holman has been serving as the personnel director for the center among other task he performs for the program.

Kimberly leaves a position as a Teen Coordinator at Girl's Incorporated to fill the vacancy left by the late patriarch Mrs. Ruthann Monroe. Kimberly said she wanted to use her administrative abilities and serving as the director for the Memorial Recreation Center will give her a chance to use those skills.

Her college studies in Education at Hagerstown Community College and Penn State will also be helpful in expanding the programs offered at the youth center.

Asked why she accepted the position as director for the center, Kimberly said she believed in Mrs. Monroe's work and that there is a need for what the Memorial Recreation Center can offer the community.

Kimberley had worked six years for the Red Cross, raising awareness about the health and safety of the community and some of that work was at the Memorial Recreation Center.



She had taught CPR and First Aid at the center, she even helped out there as a lifeguard.

Kimberly is also a certified Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) and maintains her certification for CPR and First Aid.

She said that her main focus now is the Summer Camp program that the Memorial Recreation Center runs, which will be starting this month on Wheaton Park. The opening of the swimming pool is another concern.

Holman said that some pipes for the swimming pool had leaked and needed to be repaired. Water is being added to the pool to replace what was lost from leak and then chemicals will need to be added. John Williams, had been working for the past few weeks to get the pool ready for summer, something he has been doing for a number of years.

Paula Burnett, who works at the youth center, said it is wonderful to have a director again. Holman said getting a new director could not have come at a better time. "Change is hard (for some) to accept and carrying on Ms. Ruth's vision means not living in the past, but looking forward to the future", said Holman.

**A Letter to the Editor:**

Dear Family and Friends,

It is with great pride that I write you in regards to Lamar. I have enclosed a copy of Lamar's official invitation letter to the International Games 2006.

Lamar Harris has been chosen to represent the State of Maryland Track & Field Team at the 9<sup>th</sup> annual Down Under International Games in Australia and the activities in Hawaii this year. He was selected based on his performance and academic achievements both on and off the field. This is a once and a lifetime opportunity of which would be a great experience for Lamar. Lamar can receive scholarship money for the school of his choice if he gets 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> place during the events.

Sincerely,

**Catherine Barden, mother of Lamar**

*Photos and other articles about the No Smoking Youth Club can be read in past and upcoming issues of the Speak Up community news publication*

### **2006 No Smoking Youth Rally**

May 13, 2006 was a busy day for Washington County. The county library was holding its annual Stop Drop & Read program in downtown Hagerstown and several other activities were going on in the area. The weather held out and it was a beautiful day. Yet over 75 of the faithful came indoors to celebrate the 2006 No Smoking Youth Rally. With plenty of food, fun and prizes the No Smoking Youth Club along with Teens Rejecting Abuse Smoking Habits (TRASH) and the Girls Scouts Shawnee Council gave compelling and entertaining presentations to those in attendance.

The No Smoking Youth Club gave a gripping presentation on the 53,000 people who die each year in the U.S. from second hand smoke. Rally participants were told how many funerals would have to be attended each day for all those that died from second hand smoke. Gospel Man, Jojo and the Deceiver, an act from Gateway Ministries, gave an action packed show. The character Jojo had mixed feelings about smoking cigarettes. The Deceiver tried to trick Jojo into smoking. Jojo prayed and Gospel Man showed up to the rescue. The Deceiver slipped into the audience while Gospel Man was ministering to Jojo. The Deceiver then tried to trick rally goers and Gospel Man took him to the ground. Then, TRASH called just about everybody out to the floor to do the Shaky Shaky Dance. Almost everyone lined up during the "Win Mr. Andy's Money" tobacco quiz contest. Over 50 people that signed in and registered at the door were given a list of poisons added to tobacco. Contestants who memorized and recited at least 10 chemicals on the list received \$10 cash of Andy Smith's own money he donates every year for the contest. Contestants that went on to name all twenty items from the list received a larger prize. Consolation prizes included a year's supply of pencils or coffee mugs, hats and other items with a "don't smoke" messages. Adults received prizes that included Brother On The Move t-shirts. The contest almost boiled down to how many members of TRASH, Girl Scouts or the No Smoking Youth Club could win the most top prizes. Because members of TRASH

also belong to the Youth Club or Girl Scouts there was no determination which group was the victor?

Brothers United Who Dare To Care sponsored the annual event with funding from the Maryland Department of Health & Mental Hygiene's Cigarette Restitution Fund Program. Other contributor's were the Washington County Health Department, Dr. Tanvir Pasha's office and Jerry's Sports.

### JULY 2006

*In the Spring of 2007 Staff Sargent Moses Norris returned to Iraq. His wife Carolyn said he did so because new soldiers in his unit had never been in a war, Sargent Norris joined them to help them return home, Alive.*

#### **Moses Norris, back from Iraq.**

**By Andy Smith**

Speak Up asked the 52 year-old Army Staff Sergeant a series of questions about his return from Iraq. SSgt. Norris and his unit were deployed to Iraq in the spring of 2005. He returned Easter morning of 2006 with a special effort that processed his unit within 3 days of the normal 5 days so they could be home for Easter.

*Speak Up:* Are you back for good?

*Norris:* Yes, my ETS (End Term of Service) will be December 26, 2006. They can't send you back if you have less than two years to go.

*Speak Up:* If, they could call you, would you go?

*Norris:* Yes, you have no choice.

*Speak Up:* How long were you in the military?

*Norris:* I started off when I enlisted in the Army on July 16, 1973. I was stationed in Fort Carson, Colorado until July 19, 1976. I traveled back and forth between here and Fort Carson because my father got sick. I married Carolyn (Jones) between those travels on February 23, 1974. We've been married over thirty-two years. I was in the 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division out in Colorado. I returned here and joined the reserves and spent 15 years with the 1007<sup>th</sup> Light Equipment Maintenance (LEM) Company until they were

mobilized. Then I joined with the 729<sup>th</sup> Forward Support Battalion (FSB). I became part of the 229<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Support Battalion (MSB) two years ago and was deployed to Iraq with them last year.

*Speak Up:* The U.S. still has troops in Iraq so I won't ask what you did or seen over there, so tell us where are some of the places you have served?

*Norris:* I've been in Desert Storm and Desert Shield (Iraq), Bosnia, Saudi Arabia, Mosul and Baghdad (Iraq). And of course the military sent me to Germany. I liked Germany. We went to Germany a lot when I was in the Reserves for Summer Camp. Germany was like a vacation, not all that corruption you see everywhere else.

*Speak Up:* Do you think you made a difference in Iraq?

*Norris:* Yes, presence wise, I think we all did. I agree, we're not trying to force democracy on them (Iraqis) they should be free to make choices. I was there so they could have freedom to make choices, like we have.

*Speak Up:* What's different since you've been back?

*Norris:* I miss the M-16. I had to carry the "16" everywhere in Iraq for a year. When I returned and was processed, I turned in all the rounds I was first issued. I didn't get a chance to fire one shot. I still look for my "16" out on the porch as a habit.

*Speak Up:* We asked Carolyn Norris how she felt having her husband over in the war in Iraq.

*Carolyn:* I wasn't as worried because he accepted Christ. Except, one time I was on the phone with him in Iraq and I heard the helicopters going over and then the phone went dead. That was hard. I was okay when he called me the next day.

*Speak Up:* What's next?

*Norris:* Travel. I can retire from my civilian job in little over a year and I'm going to travel. The first travel stop will probably be in Atlantic City, New Jersey. I have relatives there.

## AUGUST 2006



*Hundreds of email hoaxes float around on the Internet with the appearance of authenticity. Some are accompanied by PDF documents allegedly from officials validating the warnings. You*

*will see the hoaxes about “knock out perfumes” to gang initiations through killing Samaritan motorist unknowingly coming to aid thugs posing as disabled motorist. The story below almost dragged me in when a prominent Pastor in the Jonathan Street neighborhood was caught in the web of deceit when he passed it on to other blacks who were getting stirred up about a possible worthless educational certificate.*

**Certificate of Completion, Certificate of Deception or Email Hoax.  
By Andy Smith**

*The following article is based on a series of emails circulating on the concerns of students leaving high school with a Certificate of Completion, the U.S. Department of Education’s official response to the email and remarks from an interview with the Washington County Board of Education.*

(Below is a copy of one of the emails being circulated. Websites source: [http://urbanlegends.about.com/library/bl\\_certificate\\_of\\_completion.htm](http://urbanlegends.about.com/library/bl_certificate_of_completion.htm))

Subject: Certificate of Completion or Attendance

The "Certificate of Completion or Attendance" that is being offered in lieu of high school diplomas, is a part of Bush's "No Child Left Behind". This is how it works:

It is for students who are unable to pass both the Language Arts and Math portions of the 10th grade ISTEP. Students must take the same 10th grade test over in the 11th and 12th grades until they pass both portions. If they are unable to pass the 10th grade test by the 12th grade then they have two options:

1. Drop out and go to a GED program or,

2. accept a "Certificate of Completion" - it is NOT a diploma. Once a student accepts it, they cannot ever get a diploma or a GED. A certificate of completion means that a student can never (as long as they live):

1. go to the armed services
2. go to college
3. go to trade school
4. go to journeyman's school
5. go to beauty school
6. go to culinary arts school
7. get a federal loan in their lifetime

This is the portion of NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND (2001) that Bush slipped in during the 2004 revision of the NCLB bill. It has not been publicized. At a high school in Indiana, in 2005, there were 87 seniors in the graduation class. Five got diplomas and 82 got "Certificates of Completion".

This is being referred to as the "Paper Plantation". It is better for students to drop out and get into a GED program so they may seek other forms of education, later in life, if they desire to do so. All 50 states have "Certificates of Completion or Attendance".

Please pass this information along to EVERYONE you know who has school age children. Clergy, please preach it from the pulpits. Our people MUST know this information. Thank you & stay blessed.

(See the next page for the U.S. Department of Education's response)

(Official response from the U.S. Department of Education about the Certificate of Completion Email. *Source:*

<http://www.ed.gov/news/pressreleases/2006/05/05242006b.html>)

PRESS RELEASES

Statement by Deputy Press Secretary Chad Colby Regarding "Certificate of Completion" Hoax Email

**FOR RELEASE:**

May 24, 2006 **Contact:** Chad Colby  
(202) 401-1576

U.S. Department of Education Deputy Press Secretary Chad Colby today released the following statement regarding a hoax e-mail being circulated:

False statements regarding graduation requirements and the *No Child Left Behind Act* (NCLB) are being circulated via e-mail. These e-mails are inaccurate, could lead to misunderstanding, and need to be corrected.

The hoax e-mails contain numerous inaccuracies, including the relationship between state graduation requirements and *No Child Left Behind*, the ability to receive federal loans, and descriptions of state law and schools in Indiana and Illinois.

Each state sets its own requirements for high school diplomas, General Educational Development tests (GED) and "Certificates of Completion." NCLB does not change those state definitions, but does require, for NCLB purposes, that states calculate a graduation rate that is based on a "regular high school diploma." In practice, this means that a GED or "Certificate of Completion" does not count positively in the graduation rate calculation.

Similarly, most colleges and most trade schools require a high school diploma or its equivalent for entrance, so anyone holding a certificate of completion would need to go back and complete the necessary academic requirements

to get a diploma before they can apply for admission to the school, and apply for federal student aid. This requirement existed before the *No Child Left Behind Act*.

In addition, according to Indiana officials, there are several inaccuracies about Indiana in the e-mails. For example, there is not a Lake Ridge Elementary School in that state, nor did any Indiana high school issue 82 "Certificates of Course Completion." Rather, according to the Indiana Department of Education, the maximum number of such certificates issued last year was 29, in a high school with 385 graduates. According to Indiana education officials, a GED, a certificate of completion, a certificate of course completion, or a certificate by any other name does not terminate a person's right to pursue a high school diploma under Indiana law. There are similar inaccuracies about Illinois.

The e-mails also include the erroneous claim that NCLB was "revised" in 2004. In fact, NCLB was enacted on January 8, 2002, and is not scheduled for reauthorization until 2007.

For additional information about the *No Child Left Behind Act* and other education initiatives, please visit the Department's Web site at <http://www.ed.gov>.

For additional information, the general public may also call 1-800-USA-LEARN (872-5327).

*Washington County Public Schools facts about the Certificate of Completion*

The Washington County Board of Education graduated 1,375 students with High School Diplomas in 2006 (742 with completer requirements to



enter Universities in Maryland), 43 Students received Certificates of Completion in 2006 ( all students had learning disabilities. 35 White students, 4 Black Students, 4 Hispanic students received the COC). The WCBOE' s first goal is for every student to earn a High School Diploma with a greater goal to receive a diploma with completer requirements to enter Universities in Maryland. *Washington County Board of Education source: Clyde Harrell, Director of Secondary Education.*  
([harrelcly@wcboe.k12.md.us](mailto:harrelcly@wcboe.k12.md.us))

### **Conclusion about the 'Certificate of Completion'**

*It does not affect future eligibility for diploma or GED and it is not a permanent obstacle to attending college, etc. Domestic Terrorism is not always presented by overt means of physical violence, it also takes the form of media propaganda designed to stir conflict within social, economical and racial parameters. It is what it is. And what it achieves is on us.*

## **OCTOBER 2006**

### **Community Friend passes away. By Andy Smith**

About 60 years ago Noah E. Horst was given a medical exam for voluntary service in the military. The results of his exam revealed a "bad" heart valve. Horst was told not to get married or have children because he was not expected to live long, thus ending his chance of any military service. For Horst who was in his early twenties at the time, the message came too late, he was already married and his wife was pregnant with their first child.

Horst went on to outlive that prediction and six children later was enlisted into the service of God. Growing up on a farm Horst talents included building fences and carpentry. Though he proved to be even better welding a Bible. Horst had spent some time as a fencing contractor for Sears & Roebucks and went into the fence building business himself and started Horst Fencing. In the early 70's he left the fencing business to

follow a spiritual calling to open a ministry center in the Jonathan Street community in the old Sealtest Ice Cream store that was on Pennsylvania Avenue in Hagerstown. He called the center “Noah’s Ark”. The couple opened the center to the community and drew a number of children that kept regular attendance and fellowship at the Ark.

The Horst family led more by example of Christian living than carrying out religious services at the center. I was among the young people that visited Noah’s Ark. I recall being invited to family style meals and using the center for band practice. At that time I had no spiritual pursuits, yet I was always drawn to the warm hospitality shared by the Horst family. I confess, in my youth I was probably more of a pain to the couple than a blessing.

Noah told me years later that he and his wife had a vision of me carrying a bible and serving God. Thirty years ago, I would have told Noah and Martha Horst that they were crazy. Now, I guess I am the one who is crazy trying to please God by serving the needs of others from a community center in the same Jonathan Street neighborhood the couple had served.

Noah not only helped the community with hospitality and Christian Fellowship, his ability as a carpenter provided very affordable repair services to people in and around the Jonathan Street neighborhood. Horst often allowed me to assist him doing various repair jobs when I was attending college, the work helped with my college expenses. On one important occasion in my life, I turned to the couple to surrender my life to Christ. Noah and Martha sat and prayed in silence and witnessed my conversion on the cool fall morning of September 5, 1982. I had since kept in contact with the couple I came to call Mom and Dad Horst, being true Godparents to a radical like myself.

Noah and Martha did not limit their Christian missionary work to the Hagerstown area. They did missionary work out West, the Carolinas, I believe even a short trek in Haiti and concluded their ministry efforts in Florida.

September of this year, the Horst couple began serious health challenges. Mom Horst had a stroke and Dad Horst again received the report of heart problems. My talk with the couple about their medical situation was

somewhat a spiritual blessing, we believe that our relationship will go on past this lifetime. Noah was okay with his situation and Martha was brave. Loving them both, I cannot deny the sadness of Noah's parting on October 11<sup>th</sup> in Naples, Florida. Those who knew Noah Horst knew of his loving heart. So I say amidst the sorrow, again the doctor was wrong. Noah had a good heart that was strong enough to break mine. The Horst family deserves resonating thanks for the sacrifice they made to show God's love to others.

*The following article was submitted by one of our readers and has been edited to fit our newsletter format. The story can be read in it's entirety at the website link: <http://afrigenias.com/forum-fpoc/index.cgi?noframes;read=3858>*

**“Oh! What a Day – the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Niagara Movement”  
by L. G. Basey**

On August 17, 2006 I attended the Centennial Commemoration of the Niagara Movement at Harpers Ferry National Historical Park in West Virginia on Storer College Campus. Oh what a day it was to stand on the site where our ancestors meet for the first Civil Rights meeting on the soil of the good old USA in Harpers Ferry, West Virginia. The Niagara Movement had not been allowed to meet in the USA, so in 1905, they held their first meeting in Ontario, Canada, on the Canadian side of Niagara Falls, and that's how the Niagara Movement got its name. The group was determined to have the next meeting in United States of America. J. R. Clifford was the secretary of West Virginia's group and he was a founding member the Niagara Movement. On the day of the anniversary ceremony, my brother Leon Basey of Baltimore, Maryland met me at the opening of the Niagara Movement Centennial Commemoration. Leon had taken about 130 photos of the opening cerebation, the re-enactment and the Clifford family. Later he matted and framed a really nice photo of J. R. Clifford, W. E. B. Dubois and J. R.'s 16-year-old daughter, Mary F. Clifford that he donated it to the Clifford family. The Clifford's had their family reunion coincide with the Niagara Movement Centennial Commemoration Celebration that weekend. It was an honor and privilege that I was there

for the commemoration. I praise the LORD that I had lived to see and be a part of the Niagara Movement Centennial Commemoration Celebration. This celebration is something special to me personally and something that my grandchildren can be proud of.

I had ridden the PanTran bus from Martinsburg to Harpers Ferry and on it I met a black woman Ms. Viola Johnson, an elementary school teacher of Berkeley County. I had an interesting conversation with Ms. Johnson, she told me she had substituted for a teacher at a school in Hedgesville, West Virginia. On the first day substituting, a white teacher came into Ms. Johnson's classroom and addressed the students and did not acknowledge Ms. Johnson or even speak to her before leaving the room. The same thing happened the following day. The third day, she came into the classroom to address the students Ms. Viola told her, "Let's go out in the hall, I have something to say to you." Ms. Johnson told her, "You don't come in my class and address my students without my permission." The teacher asked Ms. Johnson, "Who recommended you?" Ms. Johnson said, "The principal did, thank you very much." The teacher apologized, but Miss Johnson said to herself about the apology, "she's lying, she's lying, she's lying." It's a shame that today we still face racism and prejudice from the political, economical, educational and religious systems. Ms. Johnson asked me have I ever heard of a book called "The Pact." The book is about three young men, in high school, that made a pact to become doctors. I told her yes, that I saw them on Tony Brown's Show a few years ago. She said "I was their teacher" and she showed me on page 12 of the book, that they give credit to Ms. Johnson for keeping them on track.

That day was a wonderful day for the opening of the Niagara Movement Centennial Commemoration on the campus of Storer College in Harpers Ferry. It was sponsored by the Harpers Ferry National Historical Park in conjunction with the Jefferson County branch of the NAACP and the Harpers Ferry Historical Association. Dr. Benjamin L. Hooks opened the program with a prayer. Superintendent Don Campbell welcomed everyone. Mayor of Harpers Ferry James Addy and the President of West Virginia NAACP James Tobert gave greetings. The Deputy Secretary of the Interior, Lynn Scarlett, gave remarks. The President of Jefferson County, West Virginia NAACP, George Rutherford introduced the guest

speaker, U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd. Senator Byrd said, "The Niagara Movement changed the course of history." He also said "The individuals of the Niagara Movement resolved that they would demand their rights and freedoms as American citizens. Despite seemingly overwhelming odds, these stalwart individuals made a commitment to press on. And that commitment and determination are a testament to what a few individuals motivated by passion and faith can achieve. Mountains can be moved. Prejudice can be overcome and the course of history can be changed." Byrd has had a rocky relationship with the civil rights community stemming from his one time membership in the Ku Klux Klan and later as a harsh critic of civil rights leaders of the 1960s. Byrd replying to the audience, "I said it before and I say it now. I was wrong...you have heard the story of the prodigal son. Yes I am a prodigal son. Thank God for bringing the prodigal son home." I truly believe Senator Byrd was sincere. Who am I to judge anyone? The only One who can judge is our LORD Savior Jesus Christ, the Anointed One, who I believe anointed the presentation. Harpers Ferry National Historical Park Superintendent Don Campbell, Dr. Hooks & Senator Byrd unveiled the Niagara Movement highway marker.

It was a delight to finally see and witness the re-enactment of 1898 Civil Rights Courtroom Drama of J. R. Clifford & Carrie Williams case at Curtis Freewill Baptist Church. It was standing room only, I was really pleased and impressed with the re-enactment, and it's really nice to see that we all can come together as one. It was very educational for all. After the re-enactment, I met J. R. Clifford's great-great-granddaughter Jennifer Neal. Ms. Neal is a teacher who lives in South Windsor, Connecticut, and she said she is surprised American history books don't include Clifford's landmark case. "It would be nice if West Virginia history was known outside of West Virginia," she said, adding her thanks to all the people in the state's legal system that tried to spread the word about her great-great-grandfather.

I met Connie P. Rice and gave her a copy of a computer drawing I made of J. R. Clifford's home in Martinsburg on 523 W. Martin Street. For some mystery there are no photos of J.R.'s home. Ms. Rice signed my copy of the book she wrote "Our Monongalia: A History of African

Americans in Monongalia County, West Virginia." She's writing a book about J. R. Clifford's life and it should be finished by next spring. The PanTran bus did not show up to return me to Martinsburg after I waited on the Storer College Campus until 11: 00pm. I made it back to Martinsburg thanks to Harpers Ferry Park Policeman Dave Tucker.

### NOVEMBER 2006



*The No Smoking Youth Club is a peer-education program for young people ages 7-12 and teen helpers. The group meets twice a month and plan activities like monthly field trips and the monthly Family & Friends Fellowship Day. The fellowship day gives the group an opportunity to open their activities to the community. The gathering includes a group activity, a fellowship meal and presentation. The Saturday program this month included a 15-minute movie about the Virginia Slam concert effort, a meal that included roasted chicken on the menu with assorted trimmings and drinks. Bowers was the guest speaker. The club members, their families and guest enjoyed the event.*

#### **No Smoking Youth Club's "Family & Friends Fellowship Day"**

Melvin L. Bowers III, a sixteen-year old Martial Arts Black Belt, gave a health presentation and Martial Arts demonstration at the No Smoking Youth Club's "Family & Friends Fellowship Day" that was held in the Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center.

Bowers told how his martial arts training and discipline helps him to make healthy choices and avoid tobacco use. He warned about tobacco dangers and its impact on good health that is needed to accomplish the type of success he has experienced. Melvin also stressed that the support he receives from his family is a key factor in making him what he is.

A proposal has been submitted to add a Fellowship Day Banquet in the spring to attract other support to the cause of reducing health disparities and increase the level of outreach normally delivered at the Fellowship Day gathering.

The Youth Club will visit the National American Indian Museum in Washington to help celebrate November's National American Indian

Heritage Month. For more information on club activities contact the No Smoking Youth Club leader by calling 301-393-9290, email: youthclub@blackmenwhocare.org

## DECEMBER 2006

### **Kwanzaa, do we embrace it?**

**By Andy Smith**

Kwanzaa, a non-religious event, was created by Dr. Maulana "Ron" Karenga a professor of Black Studies who now chairs the Department of Black Studies at California State University, Long Beach. After meeting Malcolm X in the 60's, Dr. Karenga wanted a way to get black Americans to take pride in their African culture and heritage. Dr. Karenga created Kwanzaa in 1966 and it was not to replace Christmas. Kwanzaa is based on the year-end harvest festivals that have taken place throughout Africa for thousands of years. Africa has different names for the harvest celebration.

Kwanzaa comes from the Swahili phrase "matunda ya kwanza," which means "first fruits of the harvest." Karenga chose Swahili because people throughout Africa use the language. The extra "a" on Kwanzaa is a result of creativity. At the first Kwanzaa program there were seven children. Each child had a letter except for one, so Dr. Karenga decided to change the Kwanza to Kwanzaa and gave the word new meaning, the Nguzo Saba (the Seven Principles).

When Dr. Maulana Karenga traveled throughout Africa he found five common values and practices among the people. Kwanzaa is based on those five practices: the Gathering, Reverence, Commemoration, Recommitment and Celebration. The principles are believed to have been key to building strong, productive families and communities in Africa. Kwanzaa was created to: Reaffirm and restore African heritage and culture; Teach about the Nguzo Saba (the Seven Principles); Provide a commemoration for the African descendants; and Provide a gathering to talk about and celebrate African heritage.

So does that mean Kwanzaa is only for blacks to celebrate? Kwanzaa should not be limited to blacks anymore than the Christmas celebration should be limited to whites. Ask yourself if you should recognize, celebrate or embrace Kwanzaa.

**The Seven Principles of Kwanzaa.** Kwanzaa is celebrated from December 26th through January 1st. There is a principle for each day of Kwanzaa. During Kwanzaa, celebrants greet each other with "Habari gani," or "What's the news?" the response is the principle for the day.

Day 1: **Umoja** (*oo-MOH-ja*), Meaning: unity. Action: building a community that holds together.

Day 2: **Kujichagulia** (*koo-jee-cha-goo-LEE-yah*), Meaning: self-determination. Action: speaking for yourself and making choices that benefit the community.

Day 3: **Ujima** (*oo-JEE-mah*), Meaning: collective work and responsibility. Action: helping others within the community.

Day 4: **Ujamaa** (*oo-JAH-ma*), Meaning: cooperative economics. Action: supporting businesses that care about the community.

Day 5: **Nia** (*nee-AH*), Meaning: a sense of purpose. Action: setting goals that benefit the community.

Day 6: **Kuumba** (*koo-OOM-bah*), Meaning: creativity. Action: making the community better and more beautiful.

Day 7: **Imani** (*ee-MAH-nee*), Meaning: faith. Action: believing that a better world can be created for communities now and in the future.

A **Karamu** or feast is held on the seventh day to celebrate unity, family and cultural heritage. Kwanzaa also has seven symbols.

**The Seven Symbols of Kwanzaa:**

**Mkeka** – a straw mat – foundation

**Kinara** – candle holder – we are people

**Mishuma Saba** – seven candles – candles light the way

**Muhindi** – corn for each child in the household – children ensure the future

**Kikombe** – unity cup – binds us together

**Zawadi** – gifts – rewards for our efforts





*I wish to close this book with a very serious concern that has been on my mind about the direction of the social economic system in the United States of America. The following article are some thoughts that have come together over a recent period of time and various indicators are present that may prove this theory to be a reality. Give some thought to the notion described in the article below.*

**The Social Economical Allotment: Solution or Sellout?** By Andy Smith

From observations along the way I foresee a desperate move to solve the economic and even equality issues in the U.S. economy and social system. I believe the solution that will emerge will come through a proposal to resolve concerns with our failing economy and the dwindling social security.

The solution, a “social economic allotment” that can allow U.S. citizens a chance of a “level” economic playing field.

Imagine a proposal that would give each U.S. citizen, that fall into a certain economical category, a social economic allotment in exchange for signing off on any future opportunity for public assistance or social security benefits.

The allotment proposal could be sweetened with notion that taxes will be lowered because of the reduce in public assistance programs funded by the government. Businesses contributing to allotment payments could be exempt from contributing to unemployment insurance.

The allotment could even allow a chance to respond to African American concerns for reparations for the enslavement of their black ancestors in the abolished American Slavery system.

Of course the U.S. government could not afford mass payments of this social economic allotment and private industry would be sought to bankroll the project. To rally private support, those settling for the

payment would sign an agreement that they would go into a “social workforce program” when they fall in financial need after receiving the allotment. Meaning: if the allotment is exhausted and the recipient falls in need of assistance they agreed to work for businesses that contributed to the allotments.

Also, in exchange for social workforce services, the businesses would have to provide some sort of housing, clothing, food and transportation allowances to the social workforce “participants.

What would spark the offer for a social economical allotment? With our current economy, collapse is a strong possibility. Imagine if this collapse was engineered and even hard working middle class citizens fell into financial despair. The offer for a social economical allotment would be looked at as the best hope of recovery. Big business and wealthier citizens heavily invested in precious metals could outlast the fall of the U.S. currency and economy. The wealthiest 1% could be sought after to help with sponsoring the allotments. The allotment would be the “social bailout”.

How would the social economical allotment payout? A formula for an allotment payment would first need to address eliminating poverty by economically empowering those using public assistance. The offer could be made to give enough of a payment to reduce the recipient’s poverty status on paper. Take for example a single parent family of three given an award of \$150,000 dollars. African Americans could be offered a bonus payment to their allotment if they are of slave descent. A genealogical verification would be used to ratify disbursement of the bonuses like an additional \$10,000 per person for each African American adult and \$5,000 per each African American minor added to the allotment for those that meet the criteria.

Those eligible for a social economic allotment will be required to go through some sort of financial tutoring to teach them some basic financial education and financial management with hopes of steering them toward

using the allotment for socially sustaining such as property investment, business start up or educational investment. The award payments could also be issued in disbursements and guarded with a “no squandering” clause. Recipients that take the allotment would be required to sign off any future use of social services and agree to go into the social workforce program if they wind up in need of public assistance.

Falling into financial despair following the receipt of an allotment would automatically place the recipient for assignment in the social workforce program meaning: they can be assigned to drive supply trucks across the ice in Alaska to remote oil pipeline operations or packing crabmeat in a coastal seafood plant or any other menial and less desirable jobs. This may be viewed as a way to eliminate use of illegal and undocumented workers routinely used in the U.S. labor industry.

Unlike public assistance programs, those that wind up in assignment to the social workforce program will be required to work or face imprisonment for taking the allotment under false pretense.

Sounds harsh or like slavery? Middle class citizens will also be offered the allotment possibly in exchange for future social security benefits. Middle class citizens could take the allotment and use as an investment tool to add to existing retirement portfolios or to start up a business or pay off a debt. Middle class America, now called “Main Street” probably will not be sympathetic to the complaints or the outcry of social economical allotment recipients that wind up in the social workforce program.

Sounds impossible? What if the plan is for under privileged to fail and fall into the social workforce program? That would help fuel rewards to the businesses and other sponsors of the allotments.

Can it be done? I think it is already being tested. Mack Trucks Incorporated Powertrain Division in Hagerstown, Maryland during the late 1980’s offered employees a “buyout” after several series of layoffs. The formula used was every employee, taking the buyout, with less than ten

years employment received \$1,000 for each year of employment with the company. Those with over ten years of employment received \$2,000 for each year they were employed. The acceptance of the buyout severed the employee to all rehire rights and pension compensation. About 10 years ago the federal government used employee “buyout” when downsizing. Some federal employees were offered full benefits at an earlier retirement age, plus a handsome departure bonus, sums as large as \$60,000. Employee buyouts exist in the public and private sectors.

Low wage earners in the U.S. have been engaged in a form of a buyout. with the tax break called “Earned Income Credit”. The EIC should work as a financial trump card to help low paid workers. The EIC works sort of like this: a single-parent family of three with an annual income of about \$11,000 gets about a \$5,000 Earned Income Credit tax refund award. Nice! Except some of those receiving this Earned Income Credit have figured that if their earning increased their EIC payout goes down or is eliminated and their taxes go up. So the ambition to cross into a higher income bracket is evaded by some recipients of the EIC. So what is the purpose of the Earned Income Credit? Framers of the Earned Income Credit probably hope to spark self sufficiency if EIC awards are used to invest in home ownership or something to boost economic standing. Those eligible for Earned Income Credit year after year signifies only one thing, they are still low wage earners or they have been conditioned not strive to increase their income in order to continue getting the EIC.

It could be calculated that seasoned recipients of the Earned Income Credit refund are likely splurged a social economic allotment payment and be right back in the same economic despair and a likely candidate for the social workforce program.

What about middle class people and the acceptance of a social economic allotment, have they been tested? The stimulus package seems to be a good test on Main Street America. Do the middle class “stimulate” the economy by spending the stimulus payment or do they take the money to pay down debts or set it aside for a “rainy day”?

A growing number of people never received the \$600 per adult promised in the stimulus payout after receiving notice that they would. They received half the amount promised or no stimulus payment at all. There is no “regulation oversight” to report or complain to about stimulus package nonpayment. Where is the missing cash? Is middle class primed for the social economical allotment and the mismanagement of the payoffs that are likely to be entwined?

What if the economists are testing to see how taxpayers react to a “social” handout through the stimulus package so they can introduce the social economical allotment in the future?

Other concerns with a social economical allotment should be about payments not delivered or “stolen” through identity thefts. Will a proposal to restore stolen funds come in exchange for a using biologically secured payment system? The biological secured payment system will probably be a DNA based microchip placed on a card. When the payment cards are forged the final solution will be to have a payment chip placed physically on the recipients.

The notion that using a biologically secured chip on your body to also help with national security could win over if you are convinced the chip allows you to protect your identity from and prevent your social economic allotment payments from being stolen. Use of the chip could eliminate your need for traditional identification and carrying money. Others benefits for having a “payment identification chip” placed in your body could be quick passage through travel conduits such as airports and entrance to secured centers. Border and toll road passage could be more efficient with the payment identification chip.

Law enforcement and security people could use the chip to locate you in emergency situations and rule out false detention and misidentification.

A lot of economic issues, social inequities and national security concerns could be resolved through the implementation of a social economical allotment. You are going to have to ask yourself. Is this a solution or a sellout?



*To read the articles from this book in their original published format with accompanying photographs, visit:*

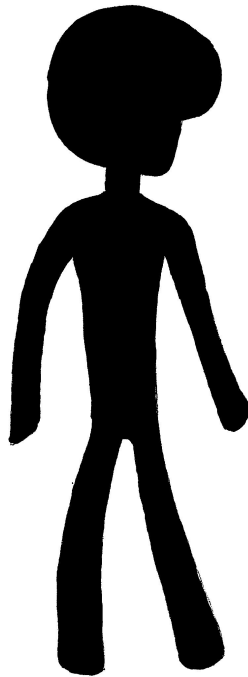
*<http://blackmenwhocare.org/speakup.html>.*

*I believe the prayer below is a decent way to end this journey of my writing adventure.*

*“To the human family, I pray we live for the purpose that God intended. And, may the Lord give us the wisdom, knowledge, courage and strength to do what is right.”*

*Yours truly,*

*The Brother*



*On the Move™*

**About the Author**

*Andy Smith* teaches preschool and is a community activist. He resides in Hagerstown, Maryland with his wife and their children. An avid photographer, he enjoys bicycling and writing. Born in Hagerstown, he spent half of his adolescence on the south side of Chicago, Illinois. He attended college in Hagerstown and Towson Maryland before starting a family.

Prior to teaching, he worked as a computer professional in the Washington D.C. area.

Smith went on to become the leader of the grassroots organization Brothers United Who Dare To Care after he started teaching. He was part of Brothers United Who Dare To Care while he was working in Washington, but left the group shortly before the organization was chartered.

No stranger to community work, he had started “The Business Group” back in the late 1980’s and had taught a continuing education course, “Blacks In Small Business” at then Hagerstown Junior College.

His occupations also included manufacturing trucks, parcel shipping and driving buses.

He has expanded the capacity of Brothers United Who Dare To Care to serve the community with outreach services and a community news publication.

His ambition is fulltime community service.