Clean up...paint up...for glorious 4th

$3,000 from HCD helps

By Ida Peters, Director
Sue Williams, Assistant

The 46th Annual AFRO Clean Block is off to a running start and the first meeting held at McCulloh Homes last Friday pointed up that trash and rats are the major problems all over Baltimore.

Orchids to Housing and Community Development represented by M.J. Brodie whose check for $3,000 will be used to buy paint for needy blocks.

Orchids also to Lambda Kappa Mu Sorority, Iota Chapter for $50 and The Big Sisters, Mrs. Bettye Moss, president and Mrs. Ida Nicholas, treasurer for $25 to help reward youngsters with block parties at the end of the campaign. More help is needed if we hope to reward all the youngsters who work this summer.

—

Mrs. Myrtle Billy, Captain and Mrs. Vel Oakley of the 1700 blk. Chase St. report that they have rats in vacant houses at 1702 and 1705. They also report a problem with stray cats and a dumping problem at Broadway and Chase. They also need help with a pot hole at 1711 with stagnant water.

Rev. Elinor D. Powell of the 3000 blk. of Grayson St. with Gary Faulkner, Captain an William Muse, Co-Captain report they have rats walking the streets at night and stray dogs.

—

Mrs. Mildred Rice, Captain and Eloise Carter of 600 N. Pulaski St. report a dirty yard in 2000 blk. of Edmondson Ave. containing a refrigerator, mattress and springs. At Pulask near Bruce, they complain about a dirty alley with old furniture.

—

1200 blk. of Parrish St. with Mrs. Mary Williams, Advisor complains about vacant houses on Stricker Street full of rats and full of trash which needs cleaning by the city.

The 800 blk. of McDonogh St. has four empty houses infe ted with rats. They also have a dumpster in the back of their block which overflows and attracts rats.

—

Ms. Marie Goode and Cassandra Fair, Captain and Co-captain, respectively, of the 1700 blk. of Lanvale St. give the following complaints: four vacant houses need to be cleaned; there are no trash cans; the back playground needs to be cleaned; the alley smells like dead rats, and a sewer hole needs to be cleaned.

—

A vacant house on the corner of the 500 blk. McMechen St is causing that block a severe rat problem, according to captain Barbara Wooden. She also reports that stray dogs and cats are a major problem.

Alice Nelson, Captain, and Margaret Young, Co-Captain, say that their block is in need of trash cans.

—

Mrs. Maggie Quille, advisor for the Druid Heights area, says that the drug store at the corner of Druid Hill and North Ave. is a dumping place. Mrs. Quille says that the store is falling down, and serves as a haven for rats. She says that the store is an eyesore to the entire neighborhood.

Ms. Vanessa Ayers, captain for the 2100 blk. of Federal St., along with co-captain Janie Davis and aovisor Rebecca Foster report a vacant store front, rats in the back alley, a live electric wire, and a vacant America building that needs to be boarded up.

They also report that some of the pavement in the front is sinking and that a vacant lot in the back of the odd side of the block is unkempt...

—

James Williams, Captain of the 1100 blk. of Wilmot Court, and his Co-captain Keanie Savoy, say that there are broken tree limbs that have yet to be attended to by the city an that the trees need spraying. Their block also has a problem of clogged sewers...

—

Ms. Gloria Hicks, captain of the 1300 blk. Etting St., says that her block has 15 houses that have reported rats INSIDE. Trash in the alleys is also a problem...

—

Herbert Griffin, captain of the 600 blk. of Cokesbury, says that rats are entering the home of the resident who lives at 622 Cokesbury, eating the clothing of both her and her husband...

—

Ms. Mable Dempsey, 900 blk. Payson St., says there is a vacant house that needs to be boarded up because it is a fire hazard. Apparently, young men and women in the block use the house as a hangout, leaving trash and empty bottles lying around. with Captain Ernestine Marshall and Co-captain Calvin Nelson, report that their alley is filled with trash. The block has a severe rat problem; rats walk the streets at night, posing health hazards to residents, especially children, and part of the probie is apparently due to the large number of vacant houses that are not boarded up. Truckers, in addition, have reportedly knocked down some of the fences that once surrounded the vacant houses, and although the problem has been reported to the city, nothing to date has been done.

A vacant house on the corner of 20th and Greenmount causes the block many problems, mostly due to the trash that accumulates. The trash also attracts more rats, and again, although the problem has been reported, nothing has ever bee done.

Drinkers in the area pile empty bottles in the streets and around the vacant houses, and especially the house at 20th and Greenmount.

One neighborhood resident, has placed an old refrigerator in front of her home, causing safety problems for the very young children of the block.

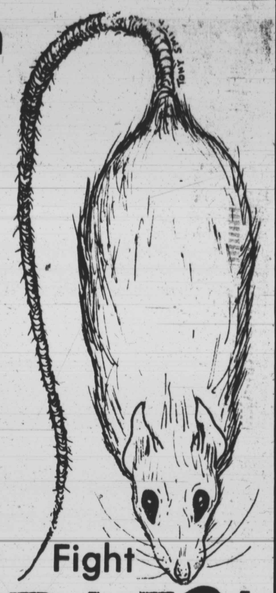
The 400 block of 20th street reports 23 vacant houses in all, from 400 through 442.

M. Jay Brodie, Commissioner, Department of Housing and Community Development presented $3,000. to AFRO Clean Block Director, Mrs. Ida Peters while John H. Murphy III (L), accepted for this newspaper's public service project. Mr. Bodie's staff kicked off the Rat Eradication Program to help blocks in their War on Rats.

Derek Neal, the city's Dr. Rat, dressed in military fatiques and rat trap decorations explained to AFRO Clean Blockers about the new Rat Squad and how to get help with their rat problems through Rat Eradication Program; 396 - 7710.

Ms. Cheryl Jackson of HCD Rat Eradication Educational Team at 396 - 7711.

Ms. Ann Porter of HCD Rat Eradication Educational Team talked to AFRO Clean Blockers on how to eliminate rats in their blocks.



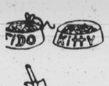
Fight RATS!

This not This

Use metal cans with tight fitting lids. Rats can't gnaw through metal.

Place all trash in your trash cans so it can be removed.

Keep tight fitting lids on trash cans to prevent rats from climbing in to find food.



Remove leftover dog or cat food from your yard after each feeding.

Remove dog manure each day from your yard. Rats can eat dog manure.

How down tall weeds and grass.

For help to fight rats in your neighborhood call Rat Eradication Program, 396 - 7710, or write D.H.C.D. — Neighborhood Development, 201 N. Franklintown Rd.

20th Street 'Superstars'

By Sue Williams

They call themselves the "20th Street Superstars."

Every day at 9:00 a.m., 23 youngsters, aged 11 years through mid-teen, gather together in the quiet morning sun in the 400 Block of 20th Street, ready to work. They may sweep or plant or gather trash...it depends on what they see. But one thing is for sure—there is always something to do.

The idea of organizing the 20th Street clean blockers into a group was the brainchild of Captain Ernestine Marshall, 14. It seemed to her that there was work to do, and the best way to get it all done was to provide some sort of incentive. The group idea worked.

But it is more than a notion. Members of the "20th Street Superstars" work hard, every day, Monday-Friday. They meet every Monday afternoon to discuss some of the problems they are having. Dues are collected... and so are fines.

"We fine people for sitting down when they're supposed to be working, for using foul language or for playing on work time," Ernestine told us. "The fine is 75 cents every time you mess up, and the money is really adding up."

All money collected is used for buying supplies, according to advisor Mrs. Luwanna Nelson. "Miss Luwanna," as she is fondly called, has taken on full responsibility for the youngsters, steering their actions and making sure their enthusiasm stays put. To her it's a challenge, something that she likes to do.

"I'd rather work with them, than to see them doing something else," she said as she mixed cement to make street planters.

"It gets discouraging sometimes. All of the people on the block don't take part, and our supplies, like brooms, are always low."

But she hasn't quit, and neither have the "20th Street Superstars." They want to buy T-shirts, as a sort of identification. And they want to keep working. It has become a challenge to them, as well.

It's all about pride.

Rules and Regulations

Purpose

The purpose of this campaign is to get all residents in your block to keep a clean home and beautify the block.

A clean block is one in which steps and sidewalks are washed once a day and the street kept free from trash.

Woodwork is kept free from fingerprints and vestibules are scrubbed. Windows are kept clean and curtains hung evenly. Garbage and trash cans are removed as soon as empty.

No one sits at the front window or on the front steps, unless his clothing is neat and clean.

Loud talking or any other disturbance which annoys others is not permitted.

A beautiful bock must have flowers in it and must be clean both back and front.

Judges

Judges appointed by the director, will choose the best block on these counts. (1) Appearance of block at time of inspection. (2) Improvement of block over what it was when contest began. (3) The beauty of the flowers. Judges may make as many inspections as they see fit in case of delay, dispute or contest, the director's decision will be final in all cases.

Window Signs

One hundred percent cooperation of the block residents will be attested by the window signs as well as by the improved appearance of the block itself.

Explanation

A block is a row of houses between two cross-streets. For the purpose of this campaign, a block includes the houses on both sides of the street.

There must be three or more houses before there is a block.

Block Organization

1. The captain must try to get all persons in the block to sign up and send their names to the AFRO - AMERICAN.

2. He or she must call a meeting of all adults and elect a president who will act as advisor.

3. Have a secretary, who will write down what is done at each meeting and send reports to the AFRO - AMERICAN.

4. Elect a block inspector, who will see that no trash accumulates anywhere in the block.

5. Elect a marshal, who will call out the clean - up brigade at a definite time each day, so that by all working together at the same time, the block will soon improve in appearance.

6. Do not paint trees and curbs: only the back yards and fences may be painted.

Special certificates of merit will be awardedto all workers recommended by captain and advisor. Improvement in the block and the spending of the money should be voted upon in the block.

Clean Block Fund $4,960

Housing and Community Development	$3,000
City of Baltimore	$1,000
M. Goldseker Co.	$350.00
Most Worshipful Prince Hall Masons	150.00
Anonymous	100.00
Vulcan Blazers	75.00
Dallas F. Nicholas Sr. School No. 39	65.50
Past Masters Council	50.00
Lambda Kappa Mu Sorority, Iota Chapter	50.00
Councilwoman Victorine Adams	25.00
Mrs. Robbie Chissell	25.00
Big Sisters of Baltimore	25.00
Attorney DeHaven Smith	17.50
Raymond A.C. Young	15.00
Dr. & Mrs. Emerson Walden	10.00
Mrs. Loretta Valentine	5.00
Mrs. Blanche Pettiford	5.00

JOIN
46th Annual
AFRO
CLEAN BLOCK
Campaign
I want to be Captain of my block:
Name
Address
Telephone
Zip
Mail Clean Block Office - 628 N. Eutaw St.
Baltimore, Md. 21201
728-8205

Oops! Baltimore's best not good enough

Urban expert cites local decline in jobs, business

Story column 2, editorial page 4

Exciting DAWN Magazine inside

Baltimore Afro-American
WE ARE NOW IN OUR 88TH YEAR
88th Year No. 96
Copyright 1980 by the AFRO-AMERICAN CO. for all material previously printed in the current National Edition
BALTIMORE, MD. JULY 12, 1980 LATE CITY EDITION 35 CENTS

Teacher slain, husband charged

A 47-year-old teacher at Franklin Square Elementary School was pronounced dead after being rushed to St. Joseph's Hospital on Wednesday afternoon, June 9, suffering from multiple stab wounds.

The victim is Mrs. Genevieve Louise Bell Hall, of 417 Railroad Ave. in West Towson.

Charged with homicide is her estranged husband, Henry Edward Hall, 49, Virguna Court, Baltimore city.

Baltimore county police report that Hall was apprehended at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday by police in Harrisburg, Pa. at the home of his daughter. His arrest came three hours after Mrs. Hall was discovered on the floor of her Towson residence.

Mrs. Louise G. Murphy, principal of Franklin Square Elementary where Mrs. Hall taught the fifth grade for five years stated that Mrs. Hall's death "really came as a shock."

She said, "She was quiet and easy going. She was a soft, sweet person and extremely feminine. She was well - liked by the staff and the parents. She was so nice you could love her to death."

Mrs. Murphy also stated that Mrs. Hall was a singer with a "melodious voice" and gave many concerts. She also remembered that her husband was a mild-mannered man and that they both participated in school activities whenever she asked.

Continued on page 2

Rudeness behind the unemployment counter

By James M. Abraham
AFRO Staff Writer

One of the most unsettling experiences anyone can go through is the loss of a job, but workers at the state Employment Security Administration, ESA, have a way of making that experience so much harder to bear.

Their rude attitudes come as an additional shock to those who are unfortunate enough to have to run the gauntlet of red tape necessary to collect unemployment compensation.

Has this ever happened to you?

The other day, this AFRO reporter had the misfortune to encounter the cold employees at the ESA.

I came in the door, found the appropriate slot, and filled out the necessary papers. I thought that by arriving early I could get my business finished quickly, but one look at the long lines changed my mind.

I was standing at the window, filling out my card, when a gentleman employee, and I use the adjective loosely, said, "Get over on the other counter."

I told him that I hadn't finished, but he repeated his direction, so I shrugged my shoulders and moved to the other side of the counter to finish.

After filling out my card, I

Continued on page 2

Welcome home picnic for Ja-Wan McGee

Photo by Hubert Feester

WELCOME HOME, JA - WAN — Ja - Wan McGee, paralyzed after he was shot by an off - duty police officer, returned home from the hospital July 3. A few days later friends threw a "Welcome Home" picnic for him. He is shown here (C) surrounded by friends and members of the Iran baseball team.

Friends of Ja-Wan McGee, the 17-year-old East Baltimorean who is paralyzed from the chest down after he was shot by an off-duty white police officer, celebrated his return home from the hospital in grand style last weekend.

A "Welcome Home, Ja-Wan" picnic was held last Sunday at a baseball diamond at Potomac and Presston Streets and some 500 people attended to express their best wishes to Ja-Wan and enjoy picnic food and drink.

The youth was made honorary captain of the Iran baseball team, whose members include Michael Lewis, Michael Davis, Danny Hilton, Jobee Hilton, Pete Davis, Libby Libson, Larry Von, Sputnick Young, "Sweet Boy" Brown, Lennie Fitzgerald, Hames Hamlett, Jimmy Robinson, captain, coaches Marvin Hewlin, Jack Lewis, Pat Scott and Dean, the manager.

A fundraiser disco to help Ja-Wan's family buy a hospital bed is planned for Saturday, July 12, at 1725 W. Fayette St., 9 p.m. until. Call 752-8642 or 233-4700 for ticket information.

A recent fundraiser held at O'Dell's raised $300.

Rawlings to aid ousted state trooper

By James M. Abraham
AFRO Staff Writer

A state legislator has decided to plunge into the mucky waters surrounding the firing of black state trooper Arthur Porter three months ago.

Porter, an outspoken member of the force who was instrumental in the formation of a black trooper's organization, was fired by state police head Col. Thomas Smith after being charged with falsifying his employment record and writing bad checks.

"The information I have," said Delegate Howard "Pete" Rawlings, D-40, "shows that Smith's intervention was very unusual. A history of cases before the state police hearing boards over the past five years will show that there have been more severe charges leveled against other troopers, but their punishment was not as severe as Porter's. He received the maximum penalty."

Rawlings cited the case of a state trooper who had been charged with appropriating state property for his private use.

"He was disciplined but not fired. His discipline was mild compared with Porter's punishment."

The delegate has sent a letter to Gordon Kamka, state secretary of public safety and corrections, asking for a list of all cases heard before police hearing boards over the past five years, the racial composition of those boards and the race of the accused troopers, and the latest data on the hiring, promotion and retention of blacks and women by the department.

According to Rawlings, Porter's constitutional rights may have been violated by Smith.

"He may be using the Porter incident to intimidate black troopers who are attempting to organize, and that may be a violation of Porter's civil rights."

Rawlings was quick to point out that he was not minimizing the alleged misconduct of Porter.

"Based on the allegations and findings of the board," he stated, "these infractions are serious, but not of a nature that would require that he be terminated from the force."

Continued on page 2

Walter T. Dixon Sr., 86, pioneering politician, dies

Walter Thomas Dixon Sr., educator, churchman, businessman, known for his community service, who served in the Baltimore City Council for three terms from 1955 - 1967 is being buried today (Friday) from St. James' Episcopal Church, Lafayette Square. He was 86.

When Walter T. Dixon broke the color barriers of the City Council in 1955, he was the first black councilman to serve in 24 years and only six others had served at various times from 1891 to 1931.

Mr. Dixon died after a long illness at Provident Hospital. Honorary pallbearers are Judges Marshall Levin, Solomon Liss, George Russell, Harry Cole and Benjamin Foreman.

Pall bearers are members of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Chi Pal Sigma Business Fraternity and the Hobnobbers Club.

Walter T. Dixon was born in Columbia, S.C. on Aug. 13, 1893, the son of William and Mary Thompson Dixon. His early childhood was spent in Williamstown, Mass. where he was valedictorian of his high school class.

His formal education began at Benedict College in Columbia, S.C. where he earned a teaching certificate. Later he attended Howard University and the American School of Law. He received a bachelor of science degree and a master's degree from Columbia University in New York where he was a member of Phi Beta Kappa, and a master's degree from Howard University. He completed post graduate studies at Harvard, Rutgers and Yale Universities.

In his early life he was assistant professor, department of chemistry, Howard University; teller, assistant bookkeeper, Industrial Savings Bank, D.C.; teacher in both the Baltimore and Washington public schools and first dean of Baltimore Junior College. He also served as professor at North Carolina College and St. Augustine College.

He came to Baltimore in 1934 and with Cortez W. Peters founded the Cortez Peters Business School, 10 days before Christmas in 1935.

(Continued on Page 21)

Walter T. Dixon

(AFRO Photo by Mark Gail)

COOLING OFF — Kevin Gavin and Connie Bright splash in the Ambrose Kennedy playground pool in the 1000 block Ensor St. to beat the heat Wednesday, when temperatures hovered in the upper 80s with high, sticky humidity.

Detective's conspiracy trial postponed

The conspiracy trial of Detective David Brice, 39, which was scheduled to begin July 9 in Criminal Court before Judge James W. Murphy has been postponed until Sept. 30.

Brice, a 12-year veteran with the police department who has been a detective since 1973, is charged with six counts of perjury, two counts of conspiracy one count of obstruction of justice and six counts of giving false statements.

The charges stem from the robbery trial of William Charles held June 1979 where Brice served as a defense witness and stated that he received a confession from Maurice Gatlin also known as Maurice Gatling and Maurice Gatler who allegedly confessed to the robbery.

According to the charges Brice conspired with Charles and gave false statements about the confession given by Gatlin. Charles was later found not guilty.

Brice, who has been suspended since April 4 without pay stated, "All this comes from the Watkins case and the Super Pride incident. They've been watching me ever since."

Col. James Watkins, who was found not guilty of malfeasance and other charges last year, headed the division that conducted a stake out at Super Pride because of a reported robbery. However, the robbery was later questioned by the police department and believed to be a fake.

According to Brice, although he was not under Watkins' supervision, he has still been investigated.

But, Richard Berger, assistant state's attorney, said, "This has nothing to do with any problems with Watkins or the Super Pride. This comes from another case which was a robbery trial."

Oops! Baltimore's renewal leaves much to be desired

A new study of urban revitalization has challenged the popular notion that Baltimore and other major cities are experiencing a resurgence in growth and development.

"There has been a lot of talk about the revitalization of the cities, that they were turning around," said Princeton University professor Richard P. Nathan, who conducted the study. "So we looked at them. There is no evidence to support that."

The study cited Baltimore's declining population, depressed job market and slumping sales as examples of its deterioration despite revitalization efforts.

—

The downtown revitalization, which includes last week's optimistic dedication of the $18 million Harborplace retail development, has not offset decline in other parts of Baltimore, the study concluded.

"There have been important achievements in Baltimore, I want to emphasize that," he said.

"But we looked at the cities as a whole, not just parts of cities, not just the harbor area and (improvement) 15 not evident from the data we have."

Preliminary census figures show Baltimore's population has dropped from 900,000 in 1970 to about 740,000 this year.

Nathan, director of Princeton's Urban and Regional Research Center, said the city's job market and retail and wholesale sales have increased only 15.3 percent in the last five years, compared to an average of 41.3 percent among 56 cities surveyed.

He also said the number of jobs in Baltimore dropped 15.8 percent.

—

His report stated, "in spite of optimistic reports and the physical evidence of construction in Baltimore's Inner Harbor and Chicago's North Shore, a doubling of median office rents in Manhattan in the last five years, an impressive amount of housing in Washington and Philadelphia, it is far from clear that many older cities have turned the corner or even bottomed out."

Nathan used census bureau statistics to measure poverty in metropolitan areas and established five categories, ranging from most depressed to least depressed cities.

—

Baltimore was in the second-most-depressed category along with Chicago, New Orleans, New York and Kansas City.