Kids Talk

Do you know this person?

She has been called a "Dreamgirl" as well as starred in the original production of "Dreamgirls" on Broadway. She was nominated for a Tony Award as best actress for her role as Deena Jones in the play "Dreamgirls."

She attended Rutgers University in New Brunswick, N.J. where she graduated at the age of 19, majoring in premed. While in her senior year at Rutger's she was chosen as one of glamour magazines top ten campus beauties throughout the country.

Also, you may remember her as a beautiful waitress in the network television sitcom "Making A Living" as well as doing many guest appearances on syndicated game shows.

She is Sheryl Lee Ralph

Kids Calendar

BLOCK PARTY

The Maryland-National Capitol Park and Planning Commission is sponsoring a Block party on July 23. There will be a variety of games, music, and sheer fun available from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

For more information call 249-9220.

REDSKINS MINI CAMP TRIP

Kids of all ages can visit and watch their favorite Redskin at Temple Hills Community Center on July 24. Transportation and admission information is available at 894-6616.

CAMP KALOMA

A summer day camp will begin on July 24 for children of all ages. Prince George's Plaza Community Center will be offering arts & crafts, games, special events, and trips. A special day care program will also be available from 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily.

For more information call 864-1611.

WILD WORLD

A trip to Wild World Amusement park will be available for kids ages 8 and up on July 26. Children will be picked up at central area day camps to enjoy a fun filled day at Wild World. School bus transportation and park admission provided. For additional information call 249-9220.

ODADAA!

A special presentation especially for children will be presented by an African-American group from Ghana called Odadaa. They will present an array of African dancing and drumming.

The performance will take place at Publick Playhouse in Landover, Maryland. For additional information call 277-1710.

PEPSI HOT SHOT

The Pepsi Hot Shop basketball competition will be held on July 26 at College Park Youth Services Bureau. This is a unisex competition from children age 8 to 15.

Prizes will be awarded for the winners of different categories. For more information call 474-1212.

NATIONAL ZOO 100TH ANNIVERSARY

The National Zoo is celebrating their 100th anniversary during the month of July. In a spectacular salute to the National Zoo, the Smithsonian Resident Associate Program presents the Washington premiere of the new Walt Disney family film "Cheetah."

The screening will be Monday, July 31, at 7 p.m. in the Baird Auditorium of the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History. For more information call 357-3030.

HU Children Theatre

By Gregory A. King
AFRO Intern

"Make it yours, make it your everyday life, act with it," thundered dance instructor, Terrance Green while teaching his students the importance of expression while dancing.

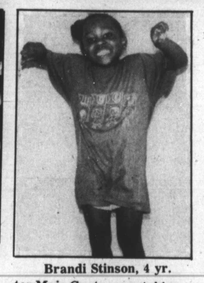
It sounded like a scene from the hit dramatic series "Fame" where the dance instructor (actress Debbie Allen) shouted out powerful words to motivate her pupils.

The students are young, gifted, and black. Some of them can dance and sing, others can act, and some have even excelled in all three categories. But all are little rising stars, working to master their individual talents at Howard University's Children's Theater (HUCT).

They range in ages from 6 to late teens. Each child must audition for slots in the program. "We audition them so we can find the more serious minded," said Melvin Andrews, HUCT Program Coordinator. "We are looking for a desire to do, more than raw talent."

The children take four classes a day, three concentrations and one elective. The electives are poetry, pantomime, arts and crafts (learning the art of making masks for the stage), auditioning techniques (for plays and commercials), speaking techniques for the stage, oral interpretation and creative writing.

Charone Gilliam, 10 yr.
Lonnie Paul, 11 yr.



Brandi Stinson, 4 yr.

The Howard University Children's Theater (HUCT) was founded by Kelsey E. Collie 16 years ago because of his love for children and the theater. At that time, his goal was to instill a sense of creative discipline into each child, hoping to improve their concentration. "Also, I wanted them to have fun."

"Through having fun, ultimately the children learn," said Melvin Andrews, HUCT Program Coordinator.

The instructors at HUCT understand the importance of making this learning experience something the children enjoy. Andrews said, "There's nothing like the sound of applause to build a child's confidence. Children feel good about themselves when people let them know they like what they are doing."

In one of the classes instructor Mojo Gentry was taking a break to share with his class what he call "a little history note" about Jan Metzinger, a black man who invented a machine to mass produce shoes. This special moment exemplified this acting instructors determination to teach these kids, not only about the art of acting; but the importance of knowing about their history.

The instructors at the HUCT work with a lot of patience, concern and knowledge.

The children are placed into five separate groups arranged by age. Group one — ages 6-7; group two — ages 8-9; group three — ages 10-11; group four — ages 12; and group five — teens.

The HUCT plays host to children throughout the country each year, including youngsters from Puerto Rico.

Three sessions are offered during the year; in the fall, summer and spring. In the fall and spring the classes are 12 weeks long, held every Saturday. While in the summer the classes are held every six weeks, Monday through Friday.

The last weekend of the summer session there is a final production, which capsules what the children have learned over the six week period.

This year the final production is entitled "Life Is A Song." And this statement definitely holds true for the HUCT environment. Because life certainly seems like a song, and dance, and big stage production on Howard University's campus, thanks to the hard work of the HUCT staff.

For more information on the Howard University Children's Theater call (202) 636-7050.

Puzzle???

PLAYGROUND FUN

Q	M	L	T	N	Y	A	O	P	S	E	Z	B	X	X
B	J	V	L	E	R	U	A	W	P	C	W	M	B	A
B	A	T	Z	S	U	R	I	O	J	K	E	U	D	L
R	I	E	R	S	E	N	R	X	A	R	I	R	R	U
R	U	M	M	N	G	P	J	W	R	C	A	O	N	N
S	Z	Y	T	B	M	Z	A	Y	S	O	C	L	X	E
R	A	S	A	U	F	S	G	S	B	K	Q	T	J	J
A	E	T	J	K	E	O	A	G	I	X	N	V	J	H
B	T	W	A	E	R	N	N	N	M	E	Z	W	M	P
Y	Y	R	S	O	D	I	G	S	R	P	H	F	Y	Q
E	W	X	U	B	D	H	R	D	D	T	F	P	T	I
K	Z	N	O	I	O	U	L	M	E	F	K	K	F	G
N	D	X	L	R	Y	I	Z	N	Q	D	X	L	C	Z
O	B	S	S	P	H	U	T	Q	W	Y	V	B	I	C
M	B	E	Z	C	I	C	J	I	N	Y	Z	H	T	Y

FIND THESE HIDDEN WORDS

IN THE ABOVE PUZZLE:

CHILDREN
PARENTS
SLIDINGBOARD
JUMPROPE
ROCKINGHORSE
SWING
MERRYGOROUND
SANDBOX
MONKEYBARS
SEESAW

HERE IS THE ANSWER KEY:

Swimming Sweathearts

SWIMMING SWEATHEARTS — There's nothing like a nice cool dip in the pool to start off the day. This is how these three lovely young ladies, Sarah Hart, Jamila McGee and Shani Daniels of Owl School Summer Camp plan to spend their day as they prepare to take a swim in the Francis Pool, in NW Washington.

Color Me

This page was edited for
The Washington AFRO
The Baltimore AFRO and
The Richmond AFRO
By Sharrief Cloud
and
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AFRO Clean Block Campaign 1989

Clean Block Update

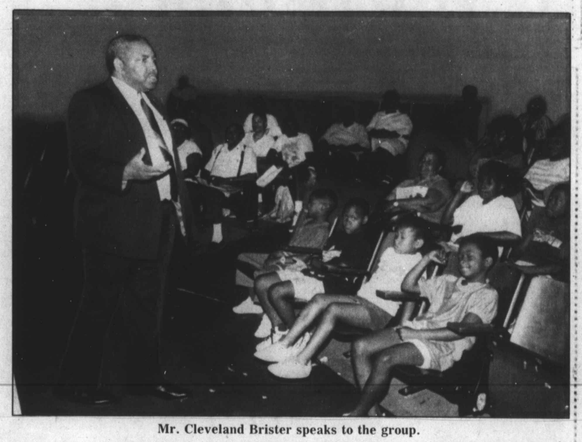
By Lynette Locke, Director

The weeks past meeting of the AFRO Clean Block was visited by Mr. Cleveland Brister of the Youth Development Program of the Urban Service Agency. Mr. Brister stressed the importance of youth in the various communities becoming involved in positive activities and programs to cancel out the negative choices facing youth today. The youth topic afforded a lengthy exchange of ideas and concerns about keeping children motivated in the right direction.

Mr. Brister also informed us of his involvement in the upcoming AFRAM Festival. He distributed the programs listing the evens and groups participating in the weekend festival. He extended a formal invitation to the Clean Block participants to attend.

The meeting ended with an up-date on the progress of the Clean Block neighborhoods. Don't miss the next meeting, this will be your last chance to receive information about the judging, the parade and the Clean Block Award Ceremony. See you next week.

Last meeting July 28th, 12 noon, Arena Playhouse, 801 McCulloh Street. T-Shirts distributed.



Mr. Cleveland Brister speaks to the group.

Summer Landscape Pests

By Wanda Y. Trent
Extension Agent-Horticulture

If April showers bring May flowers, what do June and July showers bring? Fungus, of course! You have probably noticed more brown or black spots on the leaves of your landscape plants than normal this year. The culprit is all the rain we've had so far this year. Most fungal leaf spots are harmless but a few can be damaging in the long run to your trees.

Often, it is too late to spray once the symptoms of a disease are noticed. To control disease, spray early in the season and maintain a protective coating on the susceptible plant parts with repeated sprays, since young plant tissues are usually the most susceptible. If you diagnose a disease this season, you can plan for control next season.

Sometimes the disease symptoms may be conspicuous but not especially damaging to the plant, such as most leaf spots and powdery mildew of shade trees. Spraying is not recommended in these situations. Other diseases, such as an anthracnose of shade trees, are difficult to eradicate. They can be damaging to trees like Dogwoods and Sycamore. Since their severity varies greatly with weather conditions, it may be worthwhile to use a preventative spray to protect specimen trees during wet summers like this one.

In other cases, it may not be possible to grow certain plants without following a regular spray program during the entire growing season to control insets and diseases. Many roses and most fruit trees require diligent attention, but most ornamentals need only a few sprays, if any, to maintain them in an attractive state. Removing plants that require a lot of care and replacing them with disease- and insect-resistant plant cultivars is probably the best long-term solution in most cases. Last year at this time, we were begging for rain. Now, we are hoping that it will stop.

If your roses have black spot disease, (black irregular spots on upper leaf surface, leaves yellow then fall), remove the fallen leaves from the ground and hand pick yellow leaves still attached to rose bush, and discard them into the trash. This will prevent further spread of the disease.

Speaking of roses, they may also have an infestation of Japanese beetles. These ½ to one inch long iridescent green beetles are voracious feeders. They prefer roses but will feed on almost any plant. Organic controls include hand picking the beetles from leaves and squashing them or using Milky Spore Disease, a bacteria that kills the grub or larval stage. Chemical controls include such insecticides as Sevin or methoxychlor. However, as with all pesticides, READ THE LABEL!

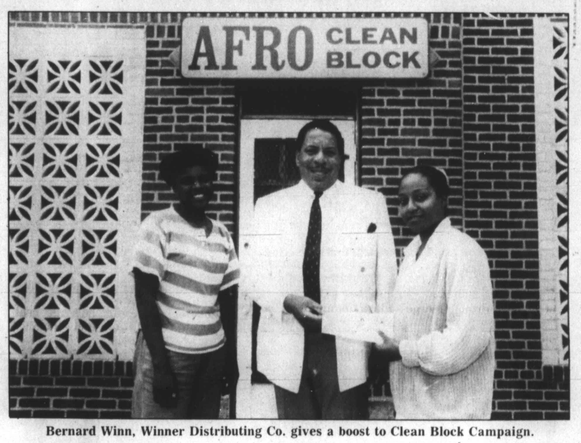
And speaking of insects, what about all those caterpillars? Most of the phone calls I've received the past few weeks have been about two different caterpillars. The mimosa webworm is a small (½ inch long), light-gray to brown hair-less caterpillar with five white stripes down its back. As it feeds, it webs leaflets and leaves together. The leaves turn brown and entire branches may be covered with brown webs.

The fall webworm is getting a good start this summer feeding on trees. The full-grown caterpillar is one inch long, pale yellow - green with a dark stripe down the center of its back and a yellow stripe on either side of its back. It is covered with long silky hairs. There are two generations of the fall webworm a year in this area; one generation appears in July and the other in August and September.

Usually damage from these caterpillars is more cosmetic than serious but if the tree is in your landscape, it can be a nuisance. When the webs are still small, they may be pruned off and destroyed to kill the caterpillars. If chemical treatment is necessary, Sevin or Diazinon will kill the pests. Sinc these pesticides are poisons, care must be taken in applying them. They have been formulated to be just powerful enough to kill the caterpillars without harming people, so following the label directions is of utmost importance. The biological insecticide, Bt will work but it must be applied when the caterpillars are very small. usually by the time you notice them they are too large for Bt to be effective on them.

NOTE! If these caterpillars are in a city owned tree, City Arborist, Ron Cousar say's "You may crefully (and according to label directions) apply Sevin or Diazinon to control these pests. However, pruning is not allowed on city-owned trees and violators may be prosecuted."

The Maryland Cooperative Extension Service's programs are open to all citizens without regard to race, color, sex, handicap, religion, age or national origin.



Bernard Winn, Winner Distributing Co. gives a boost to Clean Block Campaign.

Prevent Tomato Diseases In Your Garden

By Jon Traunfeld
University of Maryland
Baltimore City Cooperative
Extension Service

Early blight and blossom-end rot (BER) are two of the most widespread tomato diseases in Maryland home gardens. the old saying, 'an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure,' is especially true for tomato diseases. Many diseases spread rapidly in the warm, moist weather we are experiencing. Once you notice a disease problem it can be difficult and expensive to control.

EARLY BLIGHT

Early blight begins on leaves as small, dark, brown circles with dark concentric rings ("bulls-eye" marking.) These circles grow large, eventually causing leaves to yellow and die. The early blight fungus also attacks plant stems causing dark, brown cankers. As plants lose their leaves, fruits are easily scalded by the sun's rays.

Early blight is caused by Alternaria Solani. This fungus is carried by seed, soil and wind and can overwinter in plant residues for up to one year. It spreads rapidly under both moist and dry conditions and is noticed first on older, lower leaves which are in contact with the soil.

To prevent early blight: 1) buy certified, disease-free seed; inspect transplants for signs of early blight 2) rotate your crops; if possible, plant tomatoes in a different spot each year 3) mulch around tomato plants with 3"-5" of an organic material (grass clippings, leaves, etc.) to prevent rain from splashing soil on the leaves 4) pull and discard badly infected plants; till in plant residues at season's end, do not leave plant trash on top soil.

If early blight does appear in your garden spray every 7-10 days with an approved fungicide (maneb, bravo, etc.) Follow label directions carefully and reapply after a rain. Adding a capful of fish soap to your sprayer will help the fungicide stay on your leaves. Organic gardeners might want to try spraying Clorox at the rate of 1-2 TBSP per gallon of water. Whichever you use, be sure to spray the underside of leaves thoroughly.

BLOSSOM-END ROT (BER)

BER starts as a water spot on the blossom-end of tomatoes and peppers when fruits are small. It then develops into a large, dark, leathery, sunken place covering ½-½ of the fruit.

BER is a nutritional disease caused by a lack of calcium in the plant. it often occurs when a long, dry period follows a time of rapid plant growth and high soil moisture. Excessive use of commercial fertilizers is another major cause. The salts in chemical fertilizer prevent plants from taking up needed calcium.

The disease occurs on the growing or blossom-end of the fruit because the young fruits are naturally low in calcium and need a large steady supply to grow properly. If calcium is in short supply, the fruit's cell walls break down producing the dark, sunken areas.

To prevent BER: 1) have your soil tested; maintain a pH of 6.5-6.8 by applying lime in the fall according to University of Maryland recommendations 2) mulch tomatoes and peppers with 3"-5" of an organic material (grass clippings, straw, leaves, etc.) Mulch helps maintain an even soil moisture level. 3) Do not overuse chemical fertilizers; follow University of Maryland recommendations and use good common sense 4) water tomato and pepper plants during dry weather. Once it appears, BER is difficult to treat. Spraying the plants with "StopRot" or a solution of 1 oz. calcium chloride per gallon of water twice per week, will help.

It is heart-breaking to watch carefully tended tomato plants fall due to disease. So take the necessary steps right now to PREVENT problems in your garden.

Last Meeting

July 28th • 12 Noon

Arena Playhouse

T-Shirts distributed

Clean Block Parade and Awards Ceremony

August 11

War Memorial Plaza

Watch paper for more details