

The Corner Forum

for the 1200 and 1300 blocks of E, the 400 and 500 blocks of 13th,
Duncan Place and Emerald Street NE

Issue #20
Sunday, Feb. 23, 2003
37¢ + 2¢ D.C. sales tax
<http://www.thecornerforum.org>

A Little History: 47 Years on the 400 Block of 13th Street NE

BY FLORENCE SMITH, 406 13TH ST. NE

We, the Slade family, moved here — to 406 13th St. NE — in June 1956. It'll be 47 years this June. Our family is the only homeowner from back then left on the block. Every one else is new.

- When we moved here, this was the end of the line for street car Line 42. It went up 13th to C Street to the Mount Pleasant area. The B2 bus ran at 13th Street. Years later, the B2 bus ran up 14th Street.

- 400 13th St. NE was a drugstore, then later a church.

- At 13th and D, on the corner, was a streetcar barn, now a Pepco building.

- The vacant soccer lot on 13th and D was a Safeway until about 1968.

- 404 13th St. NE was a dry cleaners until about 1968, before becoming a church.

- 419 13th St. NE was a va-

cant mechanical space; then it turned into Excelo Liquors under various owners: Melvin Barnes, then Ace, then a man named James and now Sung Inc., I think.

- 421 13th St. NE was a vacant mechanical space, then a laundromat, then a 7-11, and now N-A Minit.

- 423 13th St. NE was a Chinese Cleaner's — now it's a pet-grooming business.

- At 13th and E, on the corner, was Mr. Abe's grocery store.

- On the 400 block of 13th Street between Duncan Place and E, there were two-family houses, like 416 downstairs and 416 1/2 upstairs.

- The children on the even side of the street had to go to Lovejoy, Eliot and Eastern. The odd side went to Kingsman, Miner, Browne, Spingarn, etc. But basically, there were only a few children on the block. §



Florence Smith, with one of the letters of appreciation she was sent for helping at presidential inaugurations.

16 Households on E St. Asked the City to Put Up — And Then Take Down — Signs for Zoned Parking

BY MARC BORBELY, 536 13TH ST. NE

Both men submitted petitions with the bare minimum number of signatures needed to get the city to act.

Both petitions contained 27 signatures — one more than half of the 52 households on the 1300 block of E.

As a result of Stephen Whitfield's (1323 E St. NE) petition, the city zoned the block for residential permit parking and put up signs in November informing drivers of the new rules.

Starting Dec. 3, cars parked for more than two hours, on weekdays between 7 a.m. and 8:30 p.m., could be ticketed if they didn't display a Zone 6 permit.

Then, as a result of Julius Evans's (1314 E St. NE) petition, the zoning on the block was lifted, and the signs were taken down. Parking on the block is again unrestricted.

Jennifer Jacobson, the Department of Public Works's Freedom of Information officer (673-6959), provided me with a copy of each of the two petitions, for \$10 plus copying costs.

Of the 27 signatures on Mr. Evans's petition, which opposed zoned parking, 16 were from households that had also signed Mr. Whitfield's petition asking for zoned parking.

Continued on page 4

Panel Plans Hearing On Kingsman Sale

BY MARC BORBELY, 536 13TH ST. NE

Council member Jim Graham (D-Ward 1) has scheduled a hearing on legislation that would allow the city to sell Kingsman Elementary School to the Charter Schools Development Corporation, which in turn plans to lease the space to the Sasha Bruce Charter School and to Options Charter School (see Feb. 8 Corner Forum).

The hearing, by the Subcommittee on Human Rights, Latino Affairs and Property Management, is scheduled for March 5 at 10 a.m., according to Denise Wiktor, Mr. Graham's committee clerk. The hear-

Continued on page 6

Ward 6 Transportation Planner Discusses Traffic Calming, H Street

BY MARC BORBELY, 536 13TH ST. NE

Rachel MacCleery, the city's new Ward 6 transportation planner, introduced herself to residents attending the Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6A meeting on Feb. 13. She briefly explained the process for requesting traffic calming measures from the city, and she described some possible changes on H Street.

Slowing the Cars Down

Traffic calming measures, Ms. MacCleery said, include such techniques as installing speed bumps, installing rumble strips and increasing the width of a sidewalk — anything that does not require new enforcement measures by the city. (Stop signs or traffic lights are not classified as traffic calming measures.)

To get the city to implement one of these measures, Ms. MacCleery said, residents would have to submit a "Request for Traffic Calming Study" to the Department of Transportation. The application is on the DDOT Web site, at http://ddot.dc.gov/services/traffic_calming/policies.shtm, and it can also be obtained by calling 671-2730.

As part of the application, residents would need to circulate a petition among neighbors and ask the ANC for its endorsement. According to detailed traffic policies posted on the Web site, at least 35% of the households on the affected blocks would have to support the proposed device.

The Department of Transportation would then conduct a traffic-calming study in the area and possibly hold a public hearing, asking for comment. Hearings can be important, Ms. MacCleery said, as there often are downsides to certain calming measures. Noisy rumble strips, for example, may be considered a nuisance by nearby residents. After conducting the study and holding a hearing, the department would decide whether or not to proceed.

Other examples of traffic calming measures on the Web site include bulb-outs, chicanes, chokers, circles, cul-de-sacs, diagonal diverters, forced turns, gateways, half closures, median barriers, raised crosswalks, speed humps and speed tables.

Plans for H Street

Ms. MacCleery said the city will soon be beginning a three-phase process for improving transportation on H Street. Short-term projects could include removing some of the traffic lights, slowing down the traffic, widening the sidewalks, introducing rapid bus lines and improving the routes for the current bus lines. She said introducing trolley lines on H Street would be part of a long-term, District-wide initiative and should not be expected anytime soon.

The other measures, however, could be implemented sometime around 2005 or 2006. Ms. MacCleery can be reached at 671-2555 or rachel.maccleery@dc.gov.

Metro to Hold Hearings on Fare Hike

BY MARC BORBELY, 536 13TH S

The Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority will be holding public hearings this week on a proposed Metrorail and Metrobus fare increase.

The WMATA estimates that the fare changes, which would take effect July 1, would increase revenues by \$24 million. According to WMATA press releases, posted online at http://www.wmata.com/about/MET_NEWS/200301/pr_fareproposal.cfm and http://www.wmata.com/about/MET_NEWS/200301/pr_farehike.cfm, the fare proposals include:

- Increasing the Metrorail peak boarding charge by up to \$0.30 (from \$1.10 up to \$1.40).
- Increasing the maximum peak Metrorail fare by up to \$0.60.
- Increasing the off-peak Metrorail fare by up to \$0.30.
- Increasing the Metrobus boarding charge by as much as \$0.20 (from \$1.10 up to \$1.30) all day.
- Increasing the Metrobus Express Service boarding charge by up to \$0.50.
- Increasing the daily parking rate by up to \$1, and the monthly reserved parking rate by \$30.
- Modifying MetroAccess fares from \$2.20 to double the fastest equivalent bus and/or rail fare.
- Instituting a balanced transfer charge of \$0.40 each way between bus and rail, using the SmarTrip card only.
- Eliminating rail-to-bus paper transfers.
- Eliminating the 10% bonus on Metrorail for fare cards of \$20 or more.

The Metro Board of Directors will consider the fare proposals after the hearing process is completed. Hearings will be held at various places in the District from Tuesday to Thursday (see entry for Thursday, in Calendar).

In December, Metro's CEO Richard A. White announced that the region's transit system is facing a \$48 million budget shortfall for FY 2004. Mr. White announced plans to reduce expenses by \$24 million primarily by streamlining white collar management, and to increase passenger revenues by \$24 million.

"This is the first time in eight years that Metro has proposed a change in its fare structure, and we hope our customers understand why this is necessary," Mr. White said. "We appreciate their continued use of Metro and, in the next few months, we look forward to hearing their input on this important issue." §

Contact the Corner Forum: ph. (544-2447); voicemail (517-9128); e-mail (news@thecornerforum.org); mail (536 13th St. NE). Help assemble and plan the Corner Forum every Saturday at 10 a.m. at the Northeast Branch Library, at 330 7th St. NE.

Street Scenes

Hugs and Kisses



Snow made walking specially hard for those with short legs. Above, Buddha thanks his buddy Dustin Piccolo (524 13th St. NE) for carrying him on his walks. Buddha wasn't happy in the snow, Mr. Piccolo said.

Stillness



The 1200 block of E Street, on Tuesday morning.

Major Winter Storm Produces Record Snowfall Across Metropolitan Area

FROM A NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE REPORT (Issued 2 p.m. on Tuesday)

A complex storm system produced precipitation across the Washington D.C. metropolitan area between Friday night and Tuesday morning.

The first batch of precipitation fell Friday night through Saturday evening in the form of snow and rain.

The second batch of precipitation fell early Sunday morning through midday Monday in the form of snow and sleet.

The third batch of precipitation on the back side of the storm fell between Monday night and midday Tuesday, in the form of snow showers.

Significant amounts of snow and sleet accumulated across the area through the period.

Accumulations ranged from 15 to 30 inches regionwide, with the lowest amounts occurring across the southern Washington D.C. suburbs, where a significant amount of sleet mixed in with the precipitation.

The highest amounts occurred in the northwestern Washington D.C. suburbs, where the precipitation fell mainly as snow.

In Washington, this storm ranks as the number 5 snowstorm on record. A total of 16.7 inches was recorded at Washington Reagan National Airport.

The top 10 snow storms for Washington are as follows...

- #1: Jan. 27-28, 1922 28.0 inches
- #2: Feb. 11-13, 1899 20.5 inches
- #3: Feb. 18-19, 1979 18.7 inches
- #4: Jan. 6-8, 1996 17.1 inches
- #5: Feb. 15-18, 2003 16.7 inches
- #6: Feb. 11-12, 1983 16.6 inches
- #7: Feb. 15-16, 1958 14.4 inches
- #8: Feb. 7, 1936 14.4 inches
- #9: Feb. 16-18, 1900 14.3 inches
- #10: Jan. 29-30, 1966 13.8 inches

§

Updates

HOUSE MOVES: Where houses have changed hands, I wonder if someone would like to ask the new residents or owners if they'd like to introduce themselves, or if someone would be willing to ask the folks who are moving out if they'd like to say goodbye. According to the Long & Foster Web site, <http://www.longandfoster.com>, viewed yesterday, the real estate listings for the Corner Forum area changed from the previous week as follows: 1364 Emerald St. NE is newly listed (\$365,000); and 1221 Duncan Pl. NE (was \$350,000) is no longer listed. The following listings from last week remain unchanged: 1302 E St. NE (\$485,000); and 1342 E St. NE (\$320,000). (—Marc Borbely, 536 13th St. NE) §

CORNER FORUM ACKNOWLEDGMENTS: The following people helped produce or distribute last week's (Feb. 15) Corner Forum: Marc Borbely, 536 13th St. NE (editing); Tammi Cioffi, 536 13th St. NE (folding); Sharon Cochran, 1300 block of Emerald Street NE (distributing); and Lea Mesner, 1300 block of Emerald Street NE (distributing). The following people attended last week's (Feb. 15) Corner Forum planning meeting (held every Saturday at the Northeast Branch Library at 10 a.m.): Sharon Cochran, 1300 block of Emerald St. NE; and Richard Sundberg, 1200 block of Duncan Place NE. There are 55 households in the area that have subscribed to the Corner Forum (20 on Emerald Street, 18 on E Street, 12 on 13th Street, and five on Duncan Place). §



On Thursday at 4 p.m., the trash was again overflowing in the dumpsters belonging to 501 12th St. NE, on the 1200 block of E Street.

And the Signs: They Go Up and Down

(continued from page 1)

Why did these 16 signers change their minds? So far, I've spoken with people representing seven of those 16 households.

Mable Hill (1322 E St. NE) said she decided the signs were unnecessary. She said the street's parking situation is problematic only at night and on the weekends. "We don't have trouble in the daytime," she said. On Saturdays and Sundays, however, when she returns from her part-time work, she has trouble finding a space. Originally, when she signed Mr. Whitfield's petition, she hadn't fully realized that the zoned parking would be in force only during the day. "I was just like everybody else — I wasn't thinking."

Lorene Peterson (1312 E St. NE), said she, too, originally hadn't realized that the signs would be effective only during the day. She had signed Mr. Whitfield's petition, first, thinking that it would help reduce the number of out-of-state cars parked on the street at night, when she had trouble parking. But even with the signs, at night, out-of-state cars could be found on the street just as they could before the signs were there, she said. "It didn't make a difference."

Joyce Austin (1328 E St. NE), who signed Mr. Whitfield's petition, said she regrets also having signed Mr. Evans's. She says she signed it only because Mr. Evans had told her that after taking down the 7 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. signs, the city would put up new signs that would be in effect all day and all night. "I didn't know that it was a counter petition to take them down permanently. ... We wanted *longer* time. ... By us not checking, we didn't know. ... I would not have signed the paper. ... So many people come on this street and park that it's hard to find a parking space."

Mr. Evans, however, said he never told Ms. Austin that 24-hour signs would be put up. Such signs don't exist, he said. "Maybe she misunderstood it." Mr. Evans's petition is titled "Petition for Residential Permit Parking," with the word "Counter" written in by hand in front of the word "Petition," with one of the petition's sentences — the one stating its purpose — crossed out.

At 1319, John Jones signed Mr. Evans's petition. "No one around here I talked to wanted zoned parking," he said. He said he didn't know why Jaeson Johnson, his sister's daughter's son, had signed Mr. Whitfield's.

Cora Bryant (1320 E St. NE) signed Mr. Evans's petition. Her husband, Joseph, who died in November, had signed Mr. Whitfield's. Mrs. Bryant's caretaker told me Mrs. Bryant was incapacitated and could not speak to me.

The new resident at 1368 E St. NE told me that the Townsends no longer live there. Sharman Townsend had signed Mr. Whitfield's petition, and Anthony Townsend had signed Mr. Evans's.

Continued on page 5

Contact the Corner Forum: ph. (544-2447); voicemail (517-9128); e-mail (news@thecornerforum.org); mail (536 13th St. NE). Help assemble and plan the Corner Forum every Saturday at 10 a.m. at the Northeast Branch Library, at 330 7th St. NE.

First Petition Sought Zoned Parking on 1300 Block of E; Second One Ended It

(continued from page 4)

Talking to some of the households made me wonder about the city's petition requirements: The petitions require signatures from a majority of the households, but who's to say that the signature really represents the household? Wanda Jones (1326 E St. NE), for example, signed Mr. Evans's petition. Carl Jones, in the same house, had signed Mr. Whitfield's petition. Ms. Jones says Mr. Jones signed the original petition and she signed the counter-petition even though the two of them had never spoken about the parking situation. "We've never had a discussion about it," she said. Ms. Jones said she signed the counter-petition because she didn't really feel the neighborhood needed it.

I haven't yet spoken with residents of the other nine households — 1313, 1315, 1317, 1318, 1321, 1330, 1331, 1344 and 1346 — that were represented on both petitions.

Mr. Evans says he decided to circulate the counter-petition when he first received a letter from the city, in November, alerting him to the upcoming restrictions. "We don't need it in this block," he says. "I come home periodically from lunch during the day, and I've never had a problem finding a parking spot in the 1300 block of E Street NE.

After Mr. Whitfield's petition was submitted, Wickey Cartwright, the transportation department's parking specialist and manager for Ward 6, had conducted a survey of the cars parked on the streets and found that 56 — or 86% — of the 65 legal spaces on the block were taken up. 28 of the cars had D.C. tags; 15 had Maryland tags, 9 had Virginia tags, and 4 had other tags, according to a report dated Oct. 9.

But Mr. Evans says, "I've never seen that. ... I don't see a lot of people from Maryland, Virginia or from other neighborhoods park here." He wonders why the report doesn't indicate the time at which the survey was conducted.

Mr. Evans says some of his neighbors told him they had signed Mr. Whitfield's petition without really understanding it. He thinks many thought the zoned parking would facilitate parking at night.

He says the hassle involved with getting a permit, the money required, and the fact that visitors, during the day, would require guest parking passes, and only two guest passes can be issued per year — convinced him to oppose the zoned parking.

"People wanted that parking sticker so they could park near transit sites and not get ticketed," he said. "I didn't think that was right. I didn't think that someone, because of their own personal selfish reasons, should force the entire block to do something."

Some of the residents who had supported zoned parking, however, see things differently. "I really don't think that was fair," said Beverly Carter (at 1376) about the sign removal. Ms. Carter had just paid for permits when they were taken down, and now she is unable to get her money back. To make matters worse, her daughter had gotten a ticket for parking too long on E Street.

(Mr. Evans, too, says he received a ticket around Dec. 27, but he says the city canceled the ticket after he pointed out that enforcement had already been ordered to stop due to his counter-petition.)

"I really think that we've been shafted," says Rogene Waite, at 1374. "A lot of us went ahead and got the parking stickers. We went to the trouble of going and spending money, and then we had it pulled from underneath us, which is extremely unfair."

One reason zoned parking would have been beneficial, Ms. Waite said, is that the increased parking enforcement would have helped deter more serious crime. "Just the presence of patrols coming through on a regular basis is something very important, especially on this block, which has a consistent amount of drug dealing."

Ms. Waite said Mr. Cartwright (671-0579), told her that the city would consider it too much trouble to reinstate the zoned parking, even if a third petition was submitted. "They refused to consider even putting them back up," she said. "We have no recourse." She said staff members in Sharon Ambrose's office say they have also been told that the unzoning of the block is now a done deal.

Mr. Whitfield himself, though, has not given up hope for zoned parking. "I never give up," he said. Rather, he has been seeking a good alternative. "The best solution is to make a unified, citywide decision to allow people who don't have restricted parking to be able to get a residential parking permit. ... I plan to pursue it through Mrs. Schwarz's office."

He hopes that Council member Carol Schwarz (R-At Large) will introduce and push through legislation allowing all city residents to buy parking permits for their wards, even if they don't live on zoned blocks. He suggests that the permits could simply be more expensive for residents of blocks that don't have zoned parking. He says members of Mrs. Schwarz's staff have already indicated to him that Mrs. Schwarz thinks the current zoned parking system is unfair.

To critics who accuse him of having sought the zoning just to be able to get a zone 6 permit, which will allow him to park in zoned areas near the Capitol, where he works, Mr. Whitfield admits that that was part of his motivation. But he says it's ridiculous that if he has to take the Metro to go to a doctor's appointment, he'll get a ticket if he parks his car near Union Station, where the streets are zoned for residential parking.

Mr. Whitfield also warns that the parking situation on the block will deteriorate further once construction begins at Kingsman Elementary. Construction workers will "take up the whole block," he said. "Word gets out that this is a free block — you're gonna have people parking all over the place."

Meanwhile, he casts his eye over to another street in our area that has submitted a petition for zoned parking. "I applaud the people on Emerald Street, because they went at it, and they're sticking with it — and I hope they don't have to go through what I went through." §

Event Highlights

Magnificent Mozart “Requiem” To Air on Radio Tuesday Evening

BY DEBRA WYNN, 538 13TH ST. NE

WETA 90.9 FM radio will be broadcasting Mozart’s “Requiem” on Tuesday, Feb. 25, just after the news at 9 p.m. The concert should start around five minutes after the hour. I sang with the Washington Chorus in this November 2002 concert, recorded live at the Kennedy Center Concert Hall.

It is truly an awe-inspiring work, and it’s a nice opportunity — that people in the local area can tune in and hear this beautiful music, thanks to the local classical public radio station. §

Freedom Baptist’s Singing Angels Plan Three Trips For This Summer

BY FLORENCE SMITH, 406 13TH ST. NE

Here are some events presented by the Singing Angels of Freedom Baptist Church. If anyone wants to go...

From a flyer:

- Shop ‘Til You Drop! Franklin Mills. Saturday, May 10. Leave 6 a.m. Return 8 p.m. Cost: \$50.
- Kings Dominion. Saturday, June 21. Leave 7:30 a.m. Return 8 p.m. Cost: \$50.
- Hershey Park. Saturday, Aug. 9. Leave 6 a.m. Return 8 p.m. Cost: \$50.

For additional information, call Mrs. Smith at 546-6885. §

Panel Will Hold Kingsman Hearing

(continued from page 1)

ing will be held at the Wilson Building, at 1350 Pennsylvania Ave. NW. Ms. Wiktor said she had been unable to coordinate hearing dates with Council member Harold Brazil’s (D-At Large) office, which must hold a hearing sometime after Mr. Graham’s committee holds its hearing. James Abely, committee clerk on Mr. Brazil’s committee, did not return a phone call.

Mr. Graham said in an interview on Feb. 7 that he does not view the legislation, PR 15-59, as being controversial. Ms. Wiktor said that members of the public who wish to testify either for or against the legislation should call Xavier Beltran on Monday, at 724-8095. Mr. Beltran will start working as the committee’s new clerk tomorrow, as Ms. Wiktor moves to the Department of Transportation.

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6A unanimously passed a resolution at its meeting on Feb. 13 stating that the ANC “fully supports the redevelopment of the Kingsman School as an educational facility for K-12 charter schools and strongly encourages that City Council approve the resolution to declare Kingsman a surplus building and sell the property to the [Charter Schools Development Corporation].”

According to documents obtained from the D.C. Environmental Health Administration through a Freedom of Information Act request, there is one 30-year-old 10,000-gallon underground heating oil tank at the Kingsman site.

Joel Scharfer, financial adviser to the Charter Schools Development Corporation, said Friday that the corporation has determined there has been no soil seepage from the fuel tank. The only environmental issues that will need to be addressed during construction, he said, are asbestos, lead paint and pigeon droppings. §

Calendar of Upcoming Events

If you attend any of these events, please send in anything from a few lines to a long article about what happened. And if you know of any upcoming events that other readers might be interested in, send them in! Events are free, unless otherwise noted, and open to all.

— COMPILED BY MARC BORBELY, 536 13TH ST. NE

Monday, Feb. 24

4:30 p.m. Black History Book Bingo. For ages 7-14. Children test their knowledge of black history, for prizes. At Northeast Branch Library, Children’s Room, 330 7th St. NE, 698-3299. <http://dclibrary.org/branches/noe>.

Tuesday, Feb. 25

Noon. The national reparations debate. Panel discussion: Janis Hazel, Howard University T.V.; Cobweb Tyehimba, National Coalition of Blacks in America D.C. Chapter; and Keenan Keller, Democratic Counsel, House Judiciary Committee. Moderated by Marieta Harper of the Library of Congress’s African/Middle Eastern Division. In Dining Room A, sixth floor of the James Madison Building, 101 Independence Ave. SE. Info, 707-2815. <http://www.loc.gov/loc/events/africanamer.html>.

6:30 p.m. R.L. Christian Library community visioning. “Let’s talk about getting a new R.L. Christian library building, programs and services.” Rescheduled from last week. With D.C. Office of Planning and D.C. Public Library. At new Miner Elementary School (enter from 16th Street), 801 15th St. NE. Info, Patricia Pasqual, 727-2313.

Continued on page 7

Contact the Corner Forum: ph. (544-2447); voicemail (517-9128); e-mail (news@thecornerforum.org); mail (536 13th St. NE). Help assemble and plan the Corner Forum every Saturday at 10 a.m. at the Northeast Branch Library, at 330 7th St. NE.

Calendar of Upcoming Events (continued)

(continued from page 6)

7 p.m. ANC 6A Economic Development & Zoning Committee. Agenda includes updates on 1356 North Carolina Ave. NE, 810 D St. NE, 20 9th St. NE and 918-922 Constitution Ave. NE, and an application for an R-4 variance for 714 10th St. NE. Info, ANC 6A03 Commissioner Cody Rice, 544-3734. At Capitol Hill Towers, 900 G St. NE.

7-9 p.m. Fair Budget D.C. Tax Forum. "Who Pays? Are DC's taxes too high? Is it progressive? Options and prospects for raising revenues." Panelists: Ed Lazere, DC Fiscal Policy Institute and Matt Gardner, Citizens for Tax Justice/ITEP. Sponsored by the Fair Budget Coalition, 872-8958, <http://www.legalclinic.org/fairbud.htm>. Second floor, Building 39, Van Ness Campus, University of the District of Columbia (Room number will be posted).

7:30-9:45 p.m. Lesbian & Gay Chorus of Washington: open rehearsal for prospective singers. "The LGCW is a non-auditioned, consensus-based, community chorus in its 19th year of singing boldly for the D.C. area community." At St. James' Episcopal Church, 222 8th St. NE, Parish Hall. Info, 546-1549, <http://www.lgcw.org>.

9 p.m. Mozart's Requiem, sung by Debra Wynn (538 13th St. NE) and the rest of the Washington Chorus, WETA 90.9 FM, after the news. (See article, page 6.)

Wednesday, Feb. 26

All day. Virtual March on Washington. "On February 26th, every Senate office will receive a call every minute from a constituent, as they receive a simultaneous flood of faxes and e-mail. Hundreds of thousands of people from across the country will send the collective message: Don't Attack Iraq." Hosted by MoveOn.org. Sponsored by The Win Without War Coalition. <http://www.MoveOn.org/winwithoutwar>.

Noon. Handling Health Insurance Problems in DC. How to help someone get health care and/or health coverage and how to help someone file complaints or appeals when care has been denied. Sponsored by D.C. Action for Children, Legal Aid Society of the District of Columbia and others. Space limited. To register, call Cheryl Fish Parcham, 737-6340, no later than Monday. At Hogan and Hartson Courtroom, lower level, 555 13th St. NW. <http://64.49.198.99/index.php?template=calendar.php>.

Thursday, Feb. 27

Noon. Ida B. Wells — A Passion for Justice. "Ida B. Wells, an antilynching crusader, suffragist, women's rights advocate, journalist and speaker — an uncompromising leaders and ardent defender of democracy. Wells was born into slavery in the small town of Holly Springs, Miss., in 1862, and died in Chicago in 1931 at the age of 69." At Library of Congress, James Madison Building, Room 302, Mary Pickford Theater, 101 Independence Ave. SE. Info, 707-2815. <http://www.loc.gov/loc/events/africanamer.html>.

5-7 p.m. Blacks in the Labor Movement: Interview with Bill

Fletcher, president, TransAfrica Forum. "The labor movement since its inception in the 1830s has been divided over the issue of who should be included." Rescheduled from last week. At American University, Letts Residence Hall - Formal Lounge, north side of Nebraska Avenue NW, at 4400 Massachusetts Ave. NW. Info, 332-5333 or 301-367-1079.

7:30 p.m. Public hearing on Metro fare-increase proposal. WMATA Meeting Room, 600 5th St. NW, 637-7000. http://www.wmata.com/about/MET_NEWS/200301/pr_fareproposal.cfm. Other hearings, same time: Tuesday at Garnet-Patterson Middle School, 2001 10th St. NW; Wednesday at Malcolm X Elementary School, Alabama Avenue and Congress Street SE. (See article, page 5).

Saturday, March 1

10-11 a.m. Corner Forum weekly meeting. Participate in the planning of next week's issue. Northeast Branch of the Public Library, meeting room, 330 7th St. NE. Info, 544-2447.

Ongoing

8 p.m., through March 15. Slaughter City, by Theater Alliance. "In a meat-packing plant somewhere in Midwestern America, tensions are growing to a boil among the workers and bosses, whites and blacks, and men and women. All it takes is the arrival of a stranger to set everything on fire and to reawaken that beast we call hope." At H Street Playhouse, 1365 H St. NE. Normally \$15; free if you live within five blocks of the theater (pick up tickets at least 30 minutes before the show). 800-494-8497 or <http://www.theateralliance.com/Season.htm>.

Inform. Explain. Tell. Speak.

Name: _____

Address or Block: _____

Due Date: Thursday, March 6, 2003

Please send in your thoughts or news, to 536 13th St. NE. Feel free to use more space. You can also use your own paper, send e-mail, or leave a voicemail message at 517-9128.

