

The Corner Forum

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

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37¢ + 2¢ D.C. sales tax
<http://www.thecornerforum.org>

Eleanor Miller David, 1944-2003

Eleanor Miller David, who had lived with her husband Zed David at 517 13th St. NE for 10 years, died last Saturday of a heart attack. She had been battling cancer.

The family's obituary, below, is followed by tributes from family, friends and neighbors, gathered by Stephen Smith, 1311 E St. NE, and Marc Borbely, 536 13th St. NE.



to dance and was an avid reader of history and African-American fiction.

Eleanor was active in the Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences. She was also affiliated with the AARP, United Negro College Fund, NAACP, and Black Women of America Association.

In September of 1979, Eleanor and Zdenek (Zed) met in the Smithsonian bookstore. After dating for many years, they were joined in matrimony in October 1993. They traveled in the United States, Central America, South America and Europe, especially in Zed's native Czech Republic.

She is survived by her husband, Zdenek Vaclav David; her biological daughter, Angel Coombs Ivey; six stepchildren; three aunts — Louise Pickett of Mullins, S.C., Jeanette Wade of Charlotte, N.C., and Louise Holmes of N.Y.; George McPhearson Sr., a dear cousin; and a host of relatives and friends.

She attended Springfield Baptist Church. I used to talk with her, and she used to tell me, "Oh, I know where your church is. I used to go there." Springfield Baptist Church, that's where I'm a member at. My mother is the mother of the church, there, and I'm one of the head cooks there. Beautiful person. She was always ready to participate in anything on this block. When we used to have our annual

On April 19, 2003, God extended His arm and lifted Eleanor Miller David to her awaiting home.

Eleanor David was the daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Ellere Miller. She was born on March 10, 1944, at Freedman's Hospital and grew up in Northeast Washington. She attended Stuart Junior High School and graduated from Eastern High School. As a child, she attended Springfield Baptist Church.

Eleanor earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in history from the University of the District of Columbia and a Master of Arts degree in legal studies from Antioch College. She was employed for many years as an administrative officer at the National Museum of American History and, from 1988 to her retirement in 2001, as an administrative officer at the Smithsonian Office of Museum Programs.

Eleanor was loved by all because of her personality. Once you met her, you would never forget her! She loved

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Everybody Here Is Just So Outgoing!

Mark and Michelle Bekkering, 1346 Emerald St. NE, moved into our neighborhood in March. Marc Borbely asked Mark, 26, and Michelle, 27, if they might introduce themselves with an interview in the Corner Forum.

Where are you guys from?

Michelle: I am from Iowa. I grew up in Iowa and went to college there. And Mark is actually from Canada. He's from Alberta, Canada. He was going to college there also, and that's how we met. The college we went to is called Dordt College. It's a Christian liberal arts college — it's a four-year school — and they have a hockey team, and so because he grew up with hockey, that was one of the ultimate reasons why he wanted to go to that school. That's how he got to Iowa.

Mark: Not good enough to play hockey in Canada, so you gotta go to the States. [Laughs!]

You met in college. And then?

Mark: We got married. Michelle graduated from college in '98, and then we moved to Alberta, where I'm from. Lived there for three and a half years, on a farm out there — my family does farming. We figured we had no kids, and Michelle wanted to work for the government, so we thought, "No better place than Washington, D.C."

Michelle: We picked up and moved. Had no job. We moved a year ago. He finished immigration, and we moved to Alexandria. We lived in an apartment for a year. And then we moved here [to Emerald Street] in March, when our lease was up.

So now, are you working for the government?

Michelle: I am. I work for a Con-

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Shutting Excello Down Wouldn't Do the Neighborhood Any Good

BY THEIEL JACKSON, 1309 EMERALD ST. NE

What are your thoughts on the liquor store? Is it a good thing?

It's a good thing, yeah! It's the only one on the block! I mean, everybody has parties. How many liquor stores do you see in this area, right here on 13th Street? You see Vicky's down there, on 15th Street [and D], and Vicky's been burnt down, and they rebuilt it. That's the only one on the block, so what's the problem?

What they were saying — the guys who live close to it — they're [talking about] the litter, and people hanging out, and [urinating] on their houses, and stuff like that.



Theiel Jackson

[N-A Minit] is closer to the houses than the liquor store is. The liquor store, ain't nothing on that side. Lee [at N-A Minit] sells beer, so what difference does it make?

You're saying that even if Excello didn't sell stuff —

They're gonna be out

there anyway. Because you know what they're doing out there. They're out there on Sundays! And the liquor store is closed. Sung [Bang] is a quiet person. He's quiet, he's a church-going guy — he don't try to cheat you out your money. What's the difference between a liquor store and a grocery store next to it?

So what's your solution? They're saying they got this liquor store to agree to clean up, to not sell singles, and all that stuff — that was this neighbor's attempt to try to keep the block cleaner, to keep people from hanging out.

Okay, and [Mr. Bang] stopped selling singles.

But he's still selling those big 24-ounces.

But Lee sells 24s, and 22s and 40s. So what's the difference? Only difference is that Lee don't sell liquor, and the liquor store do. You can go in the liquor store and get a 24. You can go in [N-A Minit] and get a 24. So if *he* stops selling 24s, you can still go in Lee and get it. That's just more money that Lee's making. You understand what I'm saying? He stopped, so that means Lee's making more money.

And beer make you pee more than damn alcohol do. So [Lee's] got the more piss-problem right there. He sells wine and everything, too. I don't see no difference, Marc, if you really look at it. Say, for instance, if I'm having a party to

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We're Interested in Any Protest Action Regarding Excello

BY PATTY WHITE, 400 BLOCK OF 13TH STREET NE

Ms. White sends the following in response to last week's articles about Excello...

My boyfriend and I are very new to the area, having just purchased a house across the street. I was very interested in any protest action that might be forming with regards to the liquor store. That liquor store is directly across the street and has been a sore spot for us since we moved in. I'm not sure what sort of information or effort I can provide, but it is definitely in my best interest, as well as the overall neighborhood's, to have something done!

We're in the process of extensive renovations, and the neighbors have had to deal with the noise and eyesore of the backyard, but when it's all done, I plan to bring some landscaping and curb appeal to the corner of 13th and Duncan. In doing so, my ongoing concern is the people who frequent Excello.

On any given night, we have three or more people sitting on my front steps, standing against my fence, and leaving various empty beer bottles and food wrappers. The mess they leave is only one facet of the problem. We simply don't want people loitering on our property, which they do because of its close proximity to the liquor store across the street.

What Are Your Thoughts On the Liquor Store?

I can vouch for the fact that Excello sells singles. I see the empties all over my lawn. Two weeks ago, a construction crew sat on my back steps and proceeded to drink two 24-ounce Icehouse beers apiece. They were nice enough to put them in my trash can, but it was eight in the morning and I had strangers drinking beer on my steps.

As for sweeping the front of the walk, I do see someone out there sweeping each morning in front of Excello. As far as I can tell, nothing has been done regarding the loitering. If the people aren't standing right outside Excello, they simply cross 13th Street and set up camp on my front steps. That doesn't really solve the problem of loitering and trash at all, and puts it squarely in my proverbial backyard.

Over the last few weeks I've had to clean up chicken bones, various alcohol bottles, broken glass and food wrappers. This isn't something I want to contend with, particularly after I've invested a substantial amount of money into new fencing and landscaping (due to happen this summer).

Lastly, has anyone approached Excello regarding their market focus? I understand the Lovejoy Lofts are currently under construction. It might be in Excello's best interest to modify their store and products to the changing consumer profile in the area. In doing so, that may solve the problem that has arisen from the current client base at Excello, while precluding a small business from being forced to close. This would be a business decision on Excello's part, but has the thought been floated? §

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night. You want me to get in my car, drive three or four blocks down, when I can just walk around the corner?

So it's good to have it close by, you're saying.

Yeah! What's the difference? It ain't hurting nobody. I mean both of [the two stores] serve the same purpose.

You're saying Excello's not making it any worse —

He's not making it any worse than Lee's making it. Both of them the same. Plus, both of them got people that come out and clean up.

You can't stop nobody from standing outside the store — that's a police job. You're in your store working — you're gonna keep running out the door every five minutes and tell somebody to move from in front of your door? It's a business — it's a store. You can put a sign up, but it's up to the police to make them move. The stores can be closed, and people are *still* gonna be standing out there. You know what they're doing out there.

Selling?

Yeah. So they're gonna be there regardless — if the liquor's gone or not. So what difference does it make? [The liquor store] closes on Sundays — they're still out there on Sundays. Liquor store closes at 9 o'clock — they're still out there at 12, one in the morning. That's when the trash comes. Then when they come in the morning, everybody cleans it up. They've got their own people to clean it up.

If you close the liquor store down, then we gotta go to Family, all the way down the street, on 8th and H. It's a little cheaper, but by the time you burn gas and go down there, you might as well just walk around the corner. You save 25 cents to drive down there, than to walk right down the street. If I'm having a party, and I run out of something, I'll just run right around the corner. I don't see the sense of closing the liquor store down.

If that's the case, they need to close all of them down. That's not the only liquor store people stand in front of! Any liquor store you go to, somebody's gonna be hanging around. Liquor stores — that's where people hang at. §

Tips

City Youth Register for Summer Employment:

The Department of Employment Services' Office of Youth Programs has opened registration for its 2003 Summer Jobs Program. City youth between the ages of 14 and 21 are eligible to apply for a job or work experience through the Passport to Work summer jobs initiative. The summer program is designed to offer youth temporary employment and training during the summer months. The five-week program will operate from July 7 through August 8, and is expected to serve thousands of youth in subsidized employment and job readiness training. For additional information, contact the Office of Youth Programs at 698-3991. (— City Press Release)

Federal Affairs

Revolted by a Senator's Comment Concerning Gays and Lesbians

BY DAVID KINSEY, 524 13TH ST. NE, APT. A

Well, I guess it's another Republican faux pas.

On Monday, Senator Rick Santorum (Republican-Pennsylvania) was quoted by the Associated Press as saying in an interview: "If the Supreme Court says that you have the right to consensual [gay] sex within your home, then you have the right to bigamy, you have the right to polygamy, you have the right to incest, you have the right to adultery. You have the right to anything. Does that undermine the fabric of our society? I would argue yes, it does. ... Whether it's polygamy, whether it's adultery, where it's sodomy, all of those things are antithetical to a healthy, stable, traditional family."

He has equated gays and lesbians with those who commit incest. If this is not revolting, I do not know what is. I personally called Santorum's office in Pennsylvania, and they referred me to the Web site of the Senator. If anyone wants to call Santorum to voice your disgust of his lack of sensitivity to gays and lesbians, call him at 215-864-6900, or call the Senate switchboard at 202-224-3121. This is a direct attack on the individual rights of gays and lesbians in the United States. Santorum wants to uphold the Texas sodomy laws that are being challenged before the Supreme Court this term.

I wouldn't be surprised if the Republican leadership turns a blind eye and ear to this outrageous comment, since they did the very same only two weeks ago, when Representative Barbara Cubin (Republican-Wyoming) made racially charged comments on the House floor.

She said, and I quote from the Congressional Record: "My sons are 25 and 30. They are blond-haired and blue-eyed. One amendment today said we could not sell guns to anybody under drug treatment. So does that mean if you go into a black community, you cannot sell a gun to any black person?"

If this isn't outrageous, I don't know what is. The Web site to read a Washington Post editorial is <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A5544-2003Apr10.html>.

Is this what Trent Lott has started? It surprises me that when the House voted whether or not to remove Mrs. Cubin's remarks from the record, she stood by them, and the House voted 227 to 195 to keep the words in the record. Jeez, what's next? §

Dog Feces: A Concern on Emerald St.

Three residents on Emerald Street spoke to Marc Borbely about dog feces. What are your thoughts?

BY SUZETTE GARCIA, 1357 EMERALD ST. NE

One of my main concerns is about the residents walking their dogs. I've noticed from time to time a lot of dog feces out here by the trees, on the sidewalk — they're not picking up after their dogs, and they walk them early in the morning, and I just really think that's a major concern.

Any ideas of how to fix it?

They can walk around with a plastic bag or a dog scooper or something, but I think they need to clean up behind the dogs. There's no reason people who don't have any pets or whatever come outside and have to step in it.

I mean, I had a little dog, but I took him out in my backyard, and I cleaned up behind him. And I just think it's a serious problem. I come out — I wear a uniform to go to work — and I have a problem when I come out and my boots or my shoes or whatever I'm wearing is covered with it. And it's fresh feces. It's not like it's been sitting there a while. You can stand right there, now, and see feces. You know? Hopefully we could take care of that problem, because it's really annoying. Sometimes, it's on the sidewalk — not only by the tree.

If you see someone doing it, do you tell them, "Excuse me..."—

— Well, what happens is, a lot of times if I'm running out of here, I'm running kind of late, I can't really stand up here and talk to them, and I don't want to come at them the wrong way. And what I was going to do was put a letter in his mailbox, but I said maybe this might be even better, because everybody gets to read it. §

BY ELLERY VADEN, 1348 EMERALD ST. NE

I want to talk about these people letting their dogs crap in front of their houses and not cleaning it up. Because it's not right. If everyone else can scoop it up, I don't know why certain people can't do it. They let their dogs run loose and *** in front of my house, and I'm sick and tired of it. I'm just tired of having to come outside to walk to my mother's car from my porch and step in some dog ***.

And then you've got a couple down here that lets the dog out in the yard and *** in the yard, and don't clean it up. And it smells terrible. I mean, come on! §

BY THEIEL JACKSON, 1309 EMERALD ST. NE

Theiel: They come right here, and they *** right in front of the damn house. They *** right there. Then again, it's not all the dogs around here. Because there's a lot of people around here that's got dogs — they clean up behind their dogs. It's certain people around here. §

My Dogs' Poop Is Insignificant

Marcellus Harper, 1315 Emerald St. NE, explained to Marc Borbely where he lets his dogs Penny and J.J. defecate, and why. Penny and J.J. are both very small.

If my dogs ***, they *** in the dirt, in the patch around the tree — which, to me, is fine.

Look at the size of my dogs. Whatever they move through their bowels is really basically insignificant. My dogs use the bathroom in the house most of the time, because they do stay in the house.

I let them out mostly for air, not to use the bathroom, and if they use the bathroom, as I said, they use the bathroom on the dirt. If they ever used the bathroom on the sidewalk, then I would clean it up.

However, I see dog doo on the sidewalk all the time. Personally, it doesn't bother me, as a dog owner. It is kind of frustrating to have dog doo on the sidewalk, but there's no yard. I mean, everyone has dogs — so it's just kind of something that you deal with slightly, as being a resident in D.C., and also being a dog-lover.

Before I lived in D.C., I had a huge yard, and obviously, ideally, that's where we would all like our dogs to use the bathroom. But that's just not the case.

So when they go outside, they go by the trees?

Yes. They go by the trees, if they go outside. They never use the bathroom on the sidewalk. If there was ever an incident where they used the bathroom on the sidewalk, then of course I would pick it up. But if J.J. — whose boo-boo is so insignificant — if he boo-boos on the dirt around the tree, I don't really see a need to clean that up.

I mean, it's great fertilizer for the dirt, it's biodegradable — I know what he puts in his body — he eats all natural foods — it's nothing harmful or toxic that's hurting the environment. However, there's trash all over the street by the hundred kids who live here — no one seems to be concerned with that.

And how do you know that they're only going by the trees?

Because I watch them. They don't have leashes because they're good, trained dogs. I don't need to have leashes. Look at them! They don't go outside that often. I let them go out to get fresh air, but that's basically it.

If I leash them, it's because we're in a park or something — which isn't really around here. They know better than to use the bathroom in the sidewalk, and, as I said, if they *were* to use the bathroom in the sidewalk, just like any parent — and I'm not equating that these are children — then I would take care of that mistake.

Basically, I know that it's not my dogs, because I'm aware. I'm very cognizant that they cannot doo-doo on the sidewalk. Now are they saying they have a problem with the dogs doo-dooing in the dirt, around the trees?

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I guess by law, even around the tree, you're supposed to pick it up. So my sense is that some people probably do have a problem with it, even around the trees.

Okay, my sense is this. If it's a problem, then it needs to be kept as a general problem to the whole neighborhood. Anything that's directed to me, as an individual — I don't even want to hear it, because it's bull***, basically.

There are over 20 dogs on this street. How do they know where the dog doo is coming from? How do they know it's coming from *my* dogs? I don't know whether, maybe, you can sample it, and send it to a lab, and find out exactly whose dog it is, and penalize the correct individual — since these people seem to have a lot of time. That's a suggestion — that maybe we can hold the right person accountable.

Let's be clear. I don't have German shepherds. I don't have pit bulls. I have a Chihuahua, and a Chihuahua mix. After they doo-doo, a day later, it's *gone*. It shrivels up, it degrades — whatever. As I said before, they eat completely natural food — they don't eat any table scraps, nothing. It completely works with the environment.

However, if there's a law that I don't know about, then maybe somebody needs to educate me, but I'm just saying that I think everyone in this neighborhood needs to be educated about the law — it's not just my dog.

You can kind of sense the energy of the people here — they're not used to me not having my dogs on a leash. So I try to keep my dogs away from people. I'm not gonna put them on leashes all the time, so that they can't be outside, but I will accommodate — I don't want to scare anybody or impose on anybody's else's way of dog-handling.

But there are other dogs that aren't on leashes, and I walk up and down the street constantly and I see dog doo, and I'm like: "Of course that's not J.J.'s — of course that's not Penny's. It's bigger than both of them!" So where is it coming from? Who knows! I guess that's the whole point — who knows? How can I even start to guess?

I guess Theiel [Jackson]'s issue was that no one wants to step on dog doo-doo on the sidewalk and track it in the house, which is a logical statement to me. I'm a logical person — it makes sense.

So I'm gonna do my part to keep the doo-doo off the sidewalk, but, you know, the dirt patches, every now and then — there's so many dogs who use that, I guess that's the whole point.

It's just natural for dogs to sniff and to want to use the bathroom where other dogs use the bathroom. And dogs use the bathroom up and down [the street] — I guess if it was significant, I *would* make more efforts to bag it — I guess is the law? That's just where I'm coming from. I'm not trying to make anybody's life difficult, at all.

Marcellus, thanks for your time.

Thank you. §

Fines for Dog Poop as High as \$1,000

FROM THE D.C. MUNICIPAL REGULATIONS

24-1380. SCHEDULE OF FINES FOR VIOLATIONS OF THE LITTER CONTROL ADMINISTRATION ACT

"Failure to remove animal excrement from public space" results in the following fines or hours of community service...

- 1st violation within a 60-day period: \$100 or 8 hours
- 2nd violation within a 60-day period: \$200 or 16 hours
- 3rd violation within a 60-day period: \$300 or 32 hours
- 4th violation within a 60-day period: \$1,000 or 100 hours

FROM THE D.C. MUNICIPAL REGULATIONS, 24-900. DOGS

900.1 No person shall own or keep a dog that, by barking or in any other manner, disturbs the quiet of any neighborhood or any person.

900.2 No dog shall be allowed to go at large without a collar or tag, as prescribed by law.

900.3 No person owning, keeping, or having custody of a dog in the District shall permit the dog to be on any public space in the District, unless the dog is firmly secured by a substantial leash. The leash shall be held by a person capable of managing the dog.

900.4 The length of the leash required under § 900.3 shall not exceed four feet (4 ft.).

900.5 No person owning, keeping, or having custody of a dog in the District shall permit the dog to go on private property without the consent of the owner or occupant of the property.

900.6 No person owning, keeping, or having custody of a dog in the District shall permit the dog to be confined in any yard or other enclosure, or on any private property, or in any automobile or other vehicle, in a manner that allows the dog to bite or menace persons lawfully using any public street, highway, or public space.

900.7 No person owning, keeping, or having custody of a dog, except a seeing eye dog, shall allow or permit the dog to defecate or urinate on public parking or any sidewalk or in any and each such person shall immediately remove dog excrement from any curb, gutter, alley or street.

900.8 No person owning, keeping, or having custody of a dog, except a seeing eye dog, shall permit the dog's excrement to remain on private property without the consent of the owner or occupant of the property.

900.9 Any person violating any provision of §§ 900.1 through 900.6 shall be punished by a fine of not more than three hundred dollars (\$ 300), or by imprisonment not exceeding ten (10) days. §

FROM THE D.C. DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS BROCHURE "SOLID WASTE EDUCATION AND ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM"

Clean up after your pet. In addition to being a smelly nuisance, pet poop is a food source for rats. §

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block parties, she would always give a donation. Loved her ever since she's been here — her and her daughter, both of them. Just fine people. We're gonna miss her.

— Lacey Bigelow, 1317 Emerald St. NE

Luckily, we had an opportunity to have dinner with Zed and Eleanor just a week before her death, and it was nice being able to visit with her again. It was nice to have her around. She was very lively, and, in spite of her condition, she was quick-witted and ever so gracious. For someone having a decreased mobility, she always knew what was going on in the neighborhood. She was good to talk to. We're all gonna miss her, I'm sure. But life was a struggle for her, lately. I'm happy to see that she's at rest.

— Bill Ament, 515 13th St. NE

Very lovely person. Hope she will rest in peace.

— Pauline Johnson, 519 13th St. NE

She was a good neighbor. Always very friendly and jovial.

— Synthia Johnson, formerly at 519 13th St. NE

She will be missed very much.

— Rev. Randolph W. Clay, 1250 E St. NE

With deepest sympathies to those that she loved.

— Donna Jonathan McLeod, 1313 Emerald St. NE

She attended a community meeting about the garden [on 13th and E] at the church on Maryland Avenue.

— Paul Dunbar, 511 13th St. NE

She was a dear friend whom I'll miss very much. But I'm glad that she's free.

— Rena Quallis, 525 13th St. NE

Eleanor was the spirit of the neighborhood. She looked out for all of us — a lovely dynamic lady. And we'll miss her.

— Becky Hoover, 513 13th St. NE

Every year we would have what's called a Gospel Fest [on Emerald Street]. We would close down the street, and all day long we would have praise, song and worshipping — people coming together in the spirit of love, peace and joy. And Brother Zed and Sister Eleanor were always a part of that festivity. We played many songs, and Eleanor loved a lot of the songs. But one of the songs that she loved the best — it was one that she

told me that she would come if I would play this particular song. That song was "Come to Jesus." She loved that song.

— Rev. Catherine Bego, 1308 Emerald, at the funeral

Other people, today, will speak about Eleanor's wonderful personality, and her laugh that would light up a room, that we will all miss so much. But my brothers and sisters and I also know Eleanor as a warm and kind stepmother, who welcomed the six of us and shared all of our difficulties, our joys, our graduations and weddings, our new babies. She spent untold weekends and holidays with us, and she never seemed to mind that she would have literally dozens of stepchildren and in-laws and step-grandchildren who invaded her house, and we always had the warmest welcome. We have the happiest memories of Eleanor. Eleanor was one of those people who crossed cultural barriers. She adapted to my father's Czech traditions — even at Christmas, which was a holiday that was so important to her. She grew to like my father's dumplings — the famous knedliky — that seemed to fill the kitchen at every holiday. And she also attended all of the balls, the cultural events, the conferences of the Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences with my father. She and my father traveled, and she had a great spirit of adventure in her travels. And they would think nothing of just getting on an overnight train to Italy and going across Europe. When Eleanor was in the Czech Republic, she would sit patiently listening to people who spoke only Czech, and somehow she managed to communicate with them. ... I remember one time, we found this lovely little restaurant in Prague, and I just remember that time, talking late into the night — and I remember how she was sitting there, so pretty, and so full of life, in that restaurant. ... I will always remember her that night in Prague.

— Katherine David-Fox, stepdaughter, at the funeral

She was a real nice woman. She liked chitlins, and every time she cooked chitlins, she'd always tell me, "You want some chitlins?" We'd sit outside, and we'd just talk. She was like a second mother to me. And then my son — she loved Brandon. She would go buy him gifts. She was kind of upset because she really got sick, and she couldn't do the things that she wanted to do. Anything you asked her for, she was willing to give or help. You could be a total stranger coming down the street and ask for something, she'll give it to you. She used to do Baby Boy like that all the time, before he died — give him food, and everything.

— Theiel Jackson, 1309 Emerald St. NE

She gave me this Black History book — [I've been reading] that book almost every day, because it reminds me of her. And she'd give me toys. She was a nice lady. Very nice.

— Brandon Jackson, 1309 Emerald St. NE §

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.

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gressman from California — Rohrabacher.

I'm not up on my congressmen.

Michelle: That's okay! He's a Representative, and we have like 52 in California. He's from southern California, and I'm his scheduler. It's been a really fascinating job, and I've been with him just a little over a year. I started with that office, and I've been there ever since. It's been good. A lot of perks with it — I got to go to the State of the Union address this year, which was *very* exciting, because there's probably a thousand people total in that room.

And what do you do?

Mark: I do construction. I work for a company that does additions in Arlington, single stories to make it two stories — and additions off the back end. I'm a lead carpenter for them, so I run a crew of guys.

Hopefully, pretty quick, here, I'll start my own company — start doing my stuff on my own. Me and another guy are gonna go start our own company. Probably start fixing up some houses around here, stuff like that. Some speculative buying, and fixing them up, and stuff like that. I don't know if there's big money in it or not, but it's something to try.

What kind of farm do your parents have?

Mark: Cattle. Not ranching. We do feed lots — confined feed lots. We raise cattle, and we ship them off — I guess that's what it is.

And when you guys were both living out there, were you on your parents' farm?

Mark: Yeah, we were on one of the farms — we have a couple of farms. It was pretty cool.

Michelle: A little different! To move from having 5,000 cows in your backyard to no backyard at all!

And you grew up in a rural area too?

Michelle: I did! I grew up on a farm. My dad had a pig farm, and then also crops — corn and soybeans.

Mark: Iowa's staple. That's all they grow up there.

And are you both thinking that your future will be more urban, or more rural?

Michelle: [Laughs!] That's in our debate. [Points to herself] — completely urban. [Points to Mark] — hopes in five years to return rural.

Mark: [Laughs!]. We'll see. I love it here — it's lots of fun. People are so great on these streets. Our street's been lots of fun already.

What do you guys like to do for fun?

Michelle: I dunno. One thing we've really enjoyed in D.C. is just going out to all the little outdoor restaurants — that's

what we do a lot of times on weekends, is get together with friends and go out to eat. We like to try new restaurants all the time. And we do everything — we enjoy going to plays, and theater. Mark is a real sports person, so Mark plays on — how many teams?

Mark: I play hockey in Mount Vernon, soccer in Springfield, indoor for the winter, probably keep playing for a little bit yet.

Michelle: We like to travel around — we've been doing a lot of sightseeing in the area.

Do you have any idea of the ideal neighborhood that you'd like to live in?

Michelle: We talked about it. We wanted to move into D.C., and one thing I wanted — I kind of wanted to be in this Capitol Hill area — close to where I work. And the other thing was we really wanted a nice, picturesque little street with all townhouses, and this street — we loved this street because it's not very long, and it's all just townhouses.

We really wanted to have a townhouse — not a condo. There's no stores or empty lots or anything. The other big thing, too, was that we wanted to live somewhere that was safe. We wanted to live somewhere that was a good neighborhood, and that we hoped would be friendly — because we're outgoing — but you never know that, when you move somewhere. But that was our idea.

Michelle: Our neighbors have been *very* friendly, which is just *so* nice for us. We've been almost surprised — because in a city, usually, people are really guarded, and we've met way more people here than we even did in Alexandria. People here just seem to be *so* outgoing!

Mark: In our apartment complex, we didn't know *any* of our neighbors. You'd say hi to them, and they'd look at you, put their head down and run away from you. But everyone on this street is really nice. I haven't met anybody on this street that's not nice — they come and say hi, introduce themselves. It's really fun.

Michelle: Yeah, we're having a great time. §



Mark and Michelle Bekkering

Happy Birthday!

A belated Happy Birthday to Areies Hailey, who turned 6 on March 24, and Eboni Robinson, who turned 9 on March 25! Both of them live at 525 13th St. NE. §

Updates

CORNER FORUM ACKNOWLEDGMENTS: The following people helped produce or distribute the April 14 and April 21 issues of the Corner Forum: Marc Borbely, 536 13th St. NE (editing, folding, distributing); Tammi Cioffi, 536 13th St. NE (editing, proofreading); Sharon Cochran, 1300 block of Emerald Street NE (distributing); Brandon Jackson, 1309 Emerald St. NE (distributing); Stephen Smith, 1300 block of E Street NE (folding, distributing). Ms. Cochran and Mr. Borbely attended the Corner Forum planning meeting on April 12. Meetings are every Saturday at 10 a.m., at the Northeast Branch Library. There are 67 households in the area that have subscribed to the Corner Forum (23 on E Street, 23 on Emerald Street, 15 on 13th Street, and six on Duncan Place).§

1327 E: The trash in the backyard of 1327 E St. NE was still piled up on Friday, flowing over into the alley, as it was in the photo in last week's issue. §

At 13th and D, There Was a Drugstore Where Blacks Couldn't Sit at the Bar

BY CHESTER W. HUNTER, 1310 EMERALD ST. NE

Mr. Hunter, 70, who has lived on Emerald since he was 11, responds to something the Rev. Clay mentioned in last week's issue. Rev. Clay said he thought that the building on the northwest corner of 13th and D used to be a cleaner's.

There's never been a cleaner's on the corner of 13th and D. That was a drugstore. It had a soda fountain in it. We could go there and get sodas - ice cream and stuff - but we couldn't sit at the bar.

Why not?

You don't know about segregation?

So you're saying because you're black, you couldn't sit at the bar?

You couldn't sit there. Man, this was the most segregated city I ever seen in my whole life, at one time.

That was where the church is, now?

Where the church is. Rev. Clay said he thought it was a cleaners. It's never been a cleaners. And those two stores up there? One was a Safeway, and one was an A&P. Where the liquor store is? That used to be a Safeway. And next door to it, where N-A Minit is - that used to be an A&P.

How could they fit a whole big supermarket in there?

It extended all the way back. They were small stores at that time. Then Safeway built a store on D Street, where Kingsman park is now. They had a store there. And during the riots, they burned it down. §

Calendar of 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, April 28

10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Mayor's Community Forum for Persons with Disabilities. "Receive valuable information about programs and services for persons who have disabilities." At Gallaudet University's Kellogg Conference Center, 800 Florida Ave. NE. By D.C. Department of Human Services. Info, 279-6137.

Noon. Washington by Night: Vintage Photographs by Volkmar Wentzel. "Slide show/discussion by Volkmar Wentzel about his internationally acclaimed night-time photos of Washington, D.C. in the 1930s." At Washingtoniana Division, Room 307, Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library, 901 G St. NW. 727-0321.

7:30 p.m. Stanton Park Neighborhood Association. Monthly meeting. With Council member Sharon Ambrose (Ward 6). At Northeast Branch of the Public Library, 330 7th St. NE.

Wednesday, April 30

3:30 p.m. Boys Softball. H. Johnson Junior High vs. Browne Junior High (, at Kenilworth; and Eliot Junior High vs. Deal Junior High, at Deal.

Thursday, May 1

3:30 p.m. Boys Softball. Browne Junior High vs. Francis Junior High, at Kenilworth; and Eliot Junior High vs. Terrell Junior High, at Rosedale.

6 p.m. Near Northeast Citizens Against Crime and Drugs monthly meeting. J.O. Wilson Elementary School, Seventh & K Streets NE, cafeteria.

6:30 - 9 p.m. Informational Meeting on Zoning for H Street NE. By Advisory Neighborhood Commissions 6A and 6C. Agenda includes presentation by D.C. Office of Planning on current zoning, zoning alternatives and recommended changes, and time for public questions and comments. At Capital Children's Museum, 800 3rd St. NE.

Friday, May 2

All Day. Bike to Work Day. "Join thousands of bike commuters for a celebration of clean transportation." By Washington Area Bicyclist Association. <http://www.waba.org/new/bwd/index.php>.

Ongoing

Through May 1. Divided City. Film "documents life in Washington's gritty urban jungles told from a fresh and unique perspective." At Visions Cinema Bistro Lounge, 1927 Florida Ave. NW (Metro: Dupont Circle). Matinee, \$5.50; otherwise, \$8.50 (\$2 off for seniors, students). Info, 667-0090. §