

C. Marilyn Hartnett
Diane Henderson
file: Krummrich

Monsanto Fund Contributes Big To The Bakari Institute & E. St. Louis



Monsanto W.G. Krummrich Plant General Superintendent Keith Miller presents Jahl Bakari and students from The Bakari Institute with a check for \$7,500.00

The Monsanto Fund recently presented The Bakari Institute with a check for \$7,500.00; bringing its total contribution for 1995 to \$12,500. The Monsanto Fund has supported the Bakari Institute since its inception in 1993 by donating over \$22,500 to the organization so that it can continue to provide Afrocentric Rites of Passage manhood & womanhood programs for Dist. 189 boys & girls community programs such as Kwanzaa, Peaceful African Summer Nights, a Tribute to Malcolm X to the public. Executive Director of the Bakari Institute says "without the Monsanto Fund's support; there's no way that 99% of over 200 youth we've worked with could have avoided the pitfalls

of juvenile delinquency such as teen pregnancies, substance use and abuse, gangs, violence, and poor school performance. As a result of their concern; we will be able to pay staff and provide materials to train 30 more students this school year in African curriculum of dance, drum, arts, crafts, language, history and song; in addition to, tutoring, self-defense, mentoring, landscaping and gardening." The Bakari Institute will sponsor the 3rd Annual Kwanzaa Celebration at State Community College from December 26 - January 1 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Call 414-0202 for information.

Powell's Book Fuels Speculation

By ERNEST R. MERCER

The release of a new book by retired Army General Colin Powell, "An American Journal", has added fuel to the growing speculation that he could enter the 1996



POWELL

U.S. Presidential race as a Republican - a Democrat or perhaps as the candidate of a still to be formed moderate to conservative third party.

If Powell were to enter the '96 race he has indicated that he would address what he refers to as the country's 'sensible center' which he feels has been largely ignored by both of the major parties.

Powell retired as Chairman of the U.S. military's Joint Chiefs of Staff after the Persian Gulf War and enjoys a position as one of the nation's most celebrated heroes.

He is scheduled to appear on October 5th at a Clayton bookstore, "The Library LTD" as part of a multi-city promotional tour for the new book.

Political observers say that Powell will use the book tour also to test the waters for a possible candidacy.

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Firebombing Possible In Two Cases Weekend Fires Kill Two, Injure Two

By ERNEST R. MERCER

Local and state arson experts as well as East St. Louis Police continue to investigate three separate northside fires which occurred between Sunday and Monday leaving a local man and woman dead and a married couple injured.

According to East St. Louis Police, one of the two incidents being treated as 'suspicious' took the life of 48 year old Patricia Wilkerson when her home at 2115 North 19th Street burned on Sunday morning around 7:00 o'clock.

By mid-week among the few charred remains left in the front yard of Wilkerson's fire gutted one story home was a single latex glove of the type used by coroners to aid in the removal of bodies.

East St. Louis Detective Lt. J.W. Cowan said that initial investigations suggest that Wilkerson, who is believed to have been an invalid, may have been unable to escape the flames.

However, said Cowan, "It's really too early to tell exactly what happened and we still do not know whether or not some sort of accelerant might have caused the fire."

A funeral for Wilkerson is scheduled for Friday.

The other 'suspicious' fire, occurred on Sunday evening and



PATRICIA WILKERSON

sent a married couple, Fate Marks and Deloris Marks of 1421 North 40th Street to area hospitals.

Fate Marks remains hospitalized at St. Louis Hospital Burn Center with burns over forty percent of his body.

Police believe that Marks sustained his injuries in an attempt to extinguish the fire which appears to have been confined

generally to a front bedroom. Deloris Marks was treated and released from St. Mary's Hospital in East St. Louis and police believe that the couples' son may have escaped without injury.

Though a possible motive has not been established in the Marks fire, police say that evidence points to the possibility that some sort of incendiary device or fire bomb may have been thrown into the bedroom window.

The second fatal week-end fire resulted in the death of 35 year old Mack Leonard of 4017 Forest Ave.

Police believe that Leonard's death may have been the result of careless smoking.

A neighbor, who asked not to be identified said of Leonard, "I didn't really know him, but he seemed to be a nice man who liked to entertain friends occasionally."

Few details concerning Leonard are available, but the

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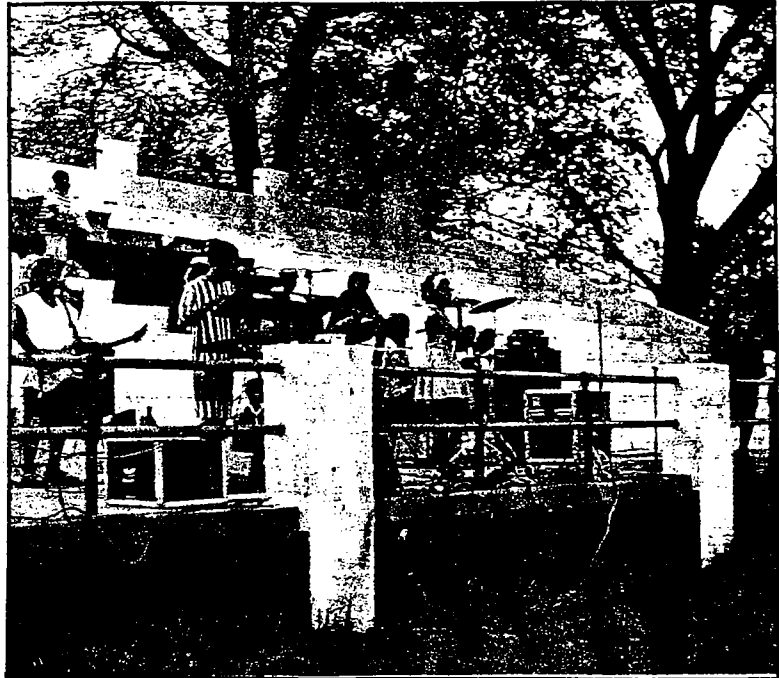
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(Staff photos by MIKE VIOLA)

The reggae-group Yard Squad performs during the final Peaceful African Summer Nights program of the year at Kenneth Hall Park.

Sweet Saturday sounds

Concert series closes on good community note

By Mike Viola
Staff writer

For the second consecutive summer, Saturday nights at Kenneth Hall Park were filled with music and celebration of what is good in East St. Louis.

On Aug. 26, the final Peaceful African Summer Nights program was held at the park and like previous Saturdays, involved a variety of music, family activities and words of encouragement for area children.

"We tried to do a couple of different things this year to get more people involved than our first year," said Jahl Bakari, founder of Harvesting New Generations — The Bakari Institute, which has organized the peaceful nights for the past two summers.

This year's concert series was started in June and ended Aug. 26. Concerts were held every Saturday night at the park except for two weeks in August.

Performers came from both sides of the river to take part in the summer night series this year.

Music heard this summer included traditional African

music, jazz, R&B, gospel, reggae and blues.

At the final program, Yard Squad, one of the top reggae bands in St. Louis, performed for those in attendance.

In addition to music by both local and St. Louis groups, the final summer night also included volleyball, football and softball games as well as BBQ.

Young men and women attending the program were also given a variety of literature related to AIDS, safe sex and the advantages of abstinence.

In talking to visitors, Bakari noted that the AIDS epidemic is growing in the African-American community but that measures to educate young people about AIDS remains minimal.

Throughout the concert series a variety of topics related to young people were addressed including gangs, domestic violence and child abuse.

Bakari said the concert series is a way for area residents to show pride in their community as well as making a statement that safe, family activities can be held.



At top, Desirae Dobbins belts out a tune during the concert finale. Above, Ronsanto Cambell, four of Washington Park, tries to figure out a portable keyboard.