

Clean-Up

By Donald Alderman
He sometimes calls it a "great interhuman exchange" or "contagious humanity" or simply "human relations." Whatever the name, a sense of pride in the community is the driving force.

"We are not begging. We are not looking for government handouts," said Brother Yusuf Salim after finishing his daily habit of sweeping the streets and cleaning the roads of the West End community.

At a time when budget cuts are causing uproars across the country and government funded community projects are in jeopardy, Brother Yusuf is cool, calm, and undisturbed.

"I have no fear under any administration. We started with very little money, have worked and will continue with very little," Yusuf said. "This is a self-help movement. God helps those who help themselves."

Daily this summer, Brother Yusuf and a group of about fifty volunteers, mostly youngsters between the ages of 5 and 15, who call themselves the Clean-Up Squad, teamed up to give Durham's West End community face lift.

The West End officially includes the areas between Maxwell Street and Lakewood Avenue, a twelve block area with a



YUSUF'S CLEAN-UP SQUAD poised and ready to sweep away dirt.

population of about 2,000. The Clean-Up Squad was mostly active between Duke's East Campus to Morehead

Avenue. In its fourth year, the clean community concept, which spontaneously grew out of Brother Yusuf's daily habit of picking trash off the streets, is an example of community members sharing love for the place where they live, Yusuf said, adding, "community pride is the key." Now operating under the direction of the West End Community Action Group (WECAG), the youngsters, with the help of one full- and one part-time coordinator, will work on a variety of community activities designed to create a sense of respect for the community.

Ms. Hannah Abdullah, coordinator for the Clean-Up Squad, said the youngsters are divided into small groups, some cleaning different streets, while others work in the community garden on the corner of Gerald and Jackson Streets.

As work was usually finished by noon, the youngsters enjoyed such activities as swimming, arts and crafts in the afternoon. They were served a pork-free lunch at the Sallam Cultural Center as provided by the Durham City Schools system.

Sallam, a jazz restaurant where Brother Yusuf plays, is the vital link between the community and the various WECAG projects.

Monies for the squad's cleaning equipment were supplied by Operation Breakthrough and private donations.

"We get a lot of help because people first see that we are helping ourselves," Yusuf noted.

Besides directing the clean-up squad, WECAG endeavors to tackle the problems of sub-standard housing, rising food costs and community deterioration.

To enhance the area's housing, the group purchased a three-apartment complex. Volunteers have been called in and are now renovating the apartments. This is WECAG's rehabilitation project.

To combat rising food costs, the group operates a food cooperative. Fresh produce is provided at prices well below retail stores to community members. The produce is purchased by orders at the Intergalactic Food Conspiracy and is delivered to buyers by WECAG's street captain volunteers.

With donations from the First Presbyterian Church, WECAG operates a winterization project. For the past three winters, volunteers have helped to better insulate the homes in the area.

There is a newly created Clean Community System for the city operating under a \$15,000 budget this year. But, then, there is WECAG's clean-up squad and other community projects, operating primarily through the good will of volunteers, changing the attitudes in the community and providing a sense of togetherness.

While one group or one program can do only so much to revitalize a community, the growth of human relations in the West End over the past four years is "the greatest human interest story in the city," remarked Brother Yusuf.

"Together we can build a better West End," is their motto and, devoted to that cause, the volunteer organization WECAG is improving the western side of Durham.

Yusuf said race relations are "excellent" at Sallam as blacks and whites work in harmony to improve the community. He said he would like to see "more of our African brothers and sisters" become involved in the cultural center.

Although budget tightening will affect WECAG, Yusuf is confident that the clean-up squad and Sallam will endure.

Yusuf said that community activities are backed widely by adults and parents in the community — most encourage their children to participate — especially if they are idle during the summer.

While not boasting of

tions and not funds withdrawal, he said.

The authority is responsible for managing the city's housing projects and certain middle income housing programs as sponsored by HUD.

Authority: "House In Order"

(Continued From Front)

Corrective actions taken by the public housing agency included:

— Providing the executive director with full authority over personnel and programs.

— Filling a number of vacancies including director of operations, property maintenance manager and a number of administrative and staff vacancies which contributed to a number of administrative and staff vacancies which contributed to a number of the agency's management difficulties.

— Revision of the agency's personnel policy which had not been updated to include several amendments as prescribed by HUD.

— Institute staff meetings to better increase communications between department heads.

— Improving financial and accounting systems to effect fiscal and monetary responsibility.

— Providing regular maintenance inspection of housing units.

— Developing a homeowners agreement for the Turnkey III housing program. The program provides tenants the opportunity to buy their homes. At the time of the occupancy review, no homes had been sold. Tabron said several have been sold since the new agreement was developed.



DENTURE WEARERS

A major advancement
CUSHION GRIP
DENTURE ADHESIVE
one application holds comfortably up to 4 days

Get ready for

TAX-FREE SAVINGS in October

On October 1, 1981 Security Federal will offer the All Savers Certificate! This certificate will allow you to earn tax-exempt interest of \$2000 on a joint Federal Tax Return (or \$1000 tax-free if you file individually.)



Security Federal Savings & Loan Association

505 S. Duke St., Durham—Tel. 683-1400

Gossip spreads much faster than the truth; that's why there is so much talk of scandal and so little about really important matters.

PETER PAN SUPERMARKET

517 Bacon Street

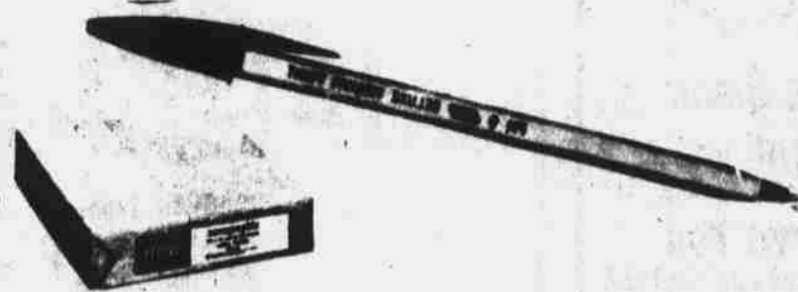
SPECIALS

Thursday • Friday • Saturday

NOT FROZEN FRYERS	LB.	51¢
8-OZ. CARTON COCA-COLA		\$1.69
PEPSI-COLA		1
COLE'S PORK SAUSAGE	LB.	\$1.39
TURKEY NECKS WINGS	LB.	49¢
SPLIT OR WHOLE PIG FEET	LB.	39¢
FRESH CUT PORK CHOPS	LB.	\$1.39

Star Office Supply August Sizzler Sale

- Federal Legal Pad.....8½x11.....\$7.95 per doz.
- Federal Legal Pads.....8½x14.....\$8.05 per doz.
- Federal Mimeo (white, canary, blue, green, pink)\$4.90 ream
- Bic Pens-Fine Point.....\$4.00 per doz.
- Bic Pens-Medium Point.....\$2.95 per doz.



See Our Values On:
Trojan Stencils—High Yield Correctable Film
Typewriter Ribbons For IBM Selectric II
Tremendous Savings
427 West Main St.

Free Delivery
682-0418

Belk Leggett

Begin your Saddlebred™ collection with this year-round favorite.



Taking its name from a stylish horse developed in America, the Saddlebred collection is designed expressly for Belk/Leggett customers. Traditional yet versatile fashion elegantly designed to our quality specifications. Shown is a men's interlock 100% cotton knit shirt with ribbed collar, cuffs, and embroidered Saddlebred emblem. It's available in Navy, Black, Beige, Green, Red and Taupe. Sizes S-M-L-XL. \$18.

Men's - First Level.
South Square Mall - Durham
Shop weekdays 10 AM - 9 PM
Belk, VISA, MasterCard, American Express
Welcome.



Saddlebred