

Colorful mural added to edifice

BY AMANDA DRUCKMAN
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Bob Marley, Harriet Tubman, Jackie Joyner-Kersey and a yellow submarine: where on earth would one find such an eclectic gathering of symbols of unity and leadership, pride and achievement?

Take a stroll to the Safe and Smart Community Center on Greenmount Avenue and you've found the answer. Along the side wall outside of the center, which is operated out of the Offices of Volunteer Services of the Johns Hopkins University, exists a newly created mural which will, according to Safe and Smart Center Executive Director Lorig Charkoudian, "attract attention to both the work that the center does and the community itself."

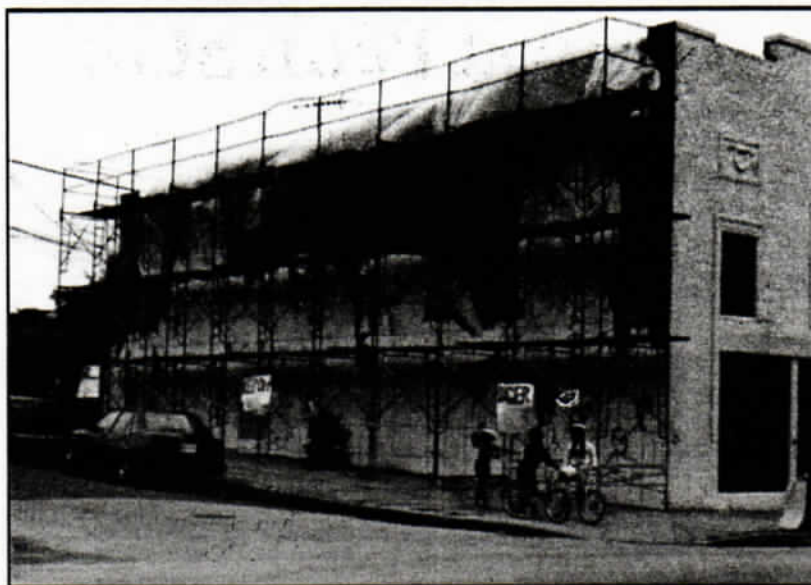
Beginning in November 1995, the Safe and Smart Center worked in conjunction with community groups to create something that would represent what the center works for an to instill pride in the Greenmount community as well.

Eventually the idea of the mural was suggested and adopted. Dr. Robert Hieronimus not only designed the mural entitled "A Little Help from Our Friends," but he also donated his services in overseeing the painting of the mural and helped in the fundraising for the project.

Dr. Hieronimus also created the 1968 mural "The Apocalypse" that hangs in Levering Hall near the Johns Hopkins University Office of Volunteer Services.

A majority of the funding for this project was facilitated by the Associated Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore and the Johns Hopkins Young Alumni Fund.

New look for Greenmount Safe and Smart Center



COURTESY OF BILL TIEFENWERTH

The new mural at the Safe and Smart Center on Greenmount Avenue.

Before a final design was completed by Dr. Hieronimus, he, along with the Greenmount community and the Safe and Smart Center spent many months deciding just who and what would go in the mural.

The visages and images which adorn the finished product are: Rachel Carson, children, Leon Day, a dragon, Bob Dylan, E.T., Mahatma Gandhi, Liu Gang, Jackie Joyner-Kersey, Martin Luther King, Jr., Robert H. Levi, Bob Marley, Memorial Stadium, Harriet Tubman, a UFO, Waverly Market, and a yellow submarine.

Dr. Hieronimus expresses that the final visions and portraits in the colorful mural are, "an interesting combination between the ideas of the community and those which are my own ideas."

Although he would have most liked to see Thomas Jefferson in the piece, Dr. Hieronimus is both pleased with and enthusiastic about the finished product.

Dr. Hieronimus states that in addition to maybe being the last piece he will ever do, the mural is probably "the most unusual piece like it ever put on a wall."

The artists who actually painted the work are Katie Butler, BFA; Lyle Kissack, BFA; and Gerald. Dr. Hieronimus usually does not hire artists to paint his creations because it requires a laborious attention to each separate task they perform.

However, those he employed to work on the project "realized the feeling that needed to be conveyed and in turn were fired up for the project."

The artists labored for over thirteen days for about 12-14 hours a day.

During the painting of the mural in August and the time leading up to this point both the Safe and Smart

Center and Dr. Hieronimus received nothing but positive feedback. "There have been no negativisms at all. I am shocked usually a project of this nature has some type of negativity. Even those who were initially in favor of the project came around to see how beautiful the work was and how it really rallied the community," Hieronimus.

In order to use the plaques represented on the mural, Dr. Hieronimus had to obtain official permission from the representatives of those whose visions he sought to realize.

What made it somewhat difficult to gain permission to use the plaques which now decorate the wall is the simple fact that Dr. Hieronimus would receive absolutely nothing from this project.

The individuals on the mural most inspire Dr. Hieronimus are Bob Dylan, Bob Marley, and Liu Gang, the Chinese di-

Dr. Hieronimus is excited that Mr. Gang will be present at the official opening of the mural on October 12.

In addition to Mr. Gang, many members of nearly every neighborhood are pictured on the mural with their attendance as well as the banding Spoonful, who are friends of Dr. Hieronimus.

"Every human being is capable of greatness. We emulate a more positive life. We realize that there exist things that are more than simply material or physical. What the mural is about is the human spirit. Hieronimus.

S H O P K I N S LETTER

nts of The Johns Hopkins University

September 20, 1996

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"A Little Help From Our Friends" by Bob Hieronimus->Jackie Joyner-Kersey, Gandhi, Liu Gang, Dragon, ET, Yellow Submarine, Rachel Carson

UFO, Bob Marley, Bob Dylan, Waverly Market, Memorial Stadium, Martin Luther King, Jr., Harriet Tubman, Robert Levi, and Leon Day.

