

**MLK UNITY
PARADE
THIS
SATURDAY
1 P.M.
DETAILS: 323-3070**

The Seattle Medium

A MESSAGE FROM THE PEOPLE. . . TO THE PEOPLE

**STATE, COUNTY,
CITY DECLARE
JULY 18
AFRICAN
AMERICAN
UNITY DAY!
DETAILS, PAGE 12A**

VOLUME 23... NUMBER 29... SERVING OVER 266,000 READERS IN SEATTLE•TACOMA•VANCOUVER•PORTLAND

Nelson, Martin & Robert

MLK Unity Parade--Celebrating Our Freedom Fighters!



The Royal Court

The African American Soul Fest '92 King & Queen will reign over this year's exciting parade this Saturday, July 18 at 1 p.m. Shown in photo is the entire Royal Court, from left: Maleka Gary, 2nd runner-up; Kim House, Spirit of Soul Award; Mynique Perkins, 1st runner-up; Niambi Williams, Miss Congeniality; Miss Soul Fest '92, QUEEN ELIZABETH PAULEY; KING MARK SMITH, and also talent competition winner; Jason Smith, Spirit of Soul Award; Ahmed Jenkins, 1st runner-up; and Chris Bell, 2nd runner-up. The Grand Marshal of the parade is FREEDOM FIGHTER REV. ROBERT JEFFREY, SR. See tentative line-up of parade participants on Page 10b.

BY VANESSA L. LICHTY
Staff Reporter

The crowd roars chanting words of encouragement and freedom.

Hundreds of people march together in unity and freedom, their feet pounding a steady rhythm.

These are the sights and the sounds of this year's exciting and colorful Martin Luther King Jr. Unity Parade and you won't want to miss it!

This Saturday marks the fifth anniversary of this fun-filled event which has come to symbolize the strength, beauty and diversity of Seattle's African American community.

This year's parade holds even more significance because it celebrates our Freedom Fighters, according to Chris Bennett, president of Chris Bennett Enterprise Charities, which founded and sponsors the parade.

"This year the festivities fall on the birthday of Nelson Mandela, one of the world's greatest Freedom Fighters," said Bennett. "We consider this to be a very happy day indeed, when we can celebrate our unity and his birthday."

Mandela will be 74 on Saturday, July 18. A quintessential Freedom Fighter, Mandela has come to symbolize for the world the anti-apartheid movement.

"He embodied the resistance to any type of racial injustice," said talk-show host Barbara Laners, parade coordinator. "He refused to give over to the South African regime even though he was imprisoned for 27 years." Mandela was released from a South African prison three years ago.

Seattle's Unity Parade was named after another great Freedom Fighter, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The Nobel Peace Prize winner and celebrated civil rights activist was responsible for the greatest social revolution to touch this country. His dedication to obtaining social equality for all men cost him his life. His courage and accomplishments live on through us.

Leading the parade as grand marshal will be Seattle's own Freedom Fighter, Dr. Robert L. Jeffrey, Sr., pastor of New Hope Baptist Church and president of the Black Dollar Days Task Force.

Jeffrey has long been battling for economic parity for our community and has become symbolic of the fact that we must continue the struggle for social and economic empowerment.

The theme of this year's parade is "Wake-up Call."

Parade sponsors feel that the theme is especially appropriate at a time when our community is facing a depressed economy, rising unemployment and a frightening increase in racial intolerance.

"We as a community need to wake up to the things that are happening around us and take it upon ourselves to effect positive changes," Bennett said.

The parade reflects the positive aspects of our community and the multitude of talent particularly among our young people, according to Laners, who is also the executive director of Chris Bennett Enterprise Charities.

"The parade is a community event which symbolizes an expression of unity. It is an event that is free to participants. Our philosophy is whosoever will, let him. It is not our intent to make money, but rather our intent is to express the talent in the community in the array of ways that are present," Laners said.

And parade-watchers will be able to enjoy quite a bit of talent! There are more than 40 groups and businesses that are participating in this exciting event.

The parade line-up will begin at 12 noon in the parking lot of Roger's Thriftway on the corner of Martin Luther King Jr. Way and Union Street. Participants are asked to be on time.

When the parade begins at 1 p.m. the parade route will follow South on MLK Way and then go West on Jackson to 23rd Avenue where the parade will disperse at the Promenade 23 Shopping Mall parking lot.

The judges stand will be set up in front of the offices of The Medium.

With all the exciting and colorful entrees the judges will probably have a hard time picking winners.

But everyone in the community is a winner when it comes to this year's Unity Parade!

"The festival parade is one of the only opportunities to

showcase the large amount of young Black talent that this community has," according to Laners. "This is the time for the community to come together and celebrate."

And what a celebration it will be. You won't want to miss it!

Some of the exciting entries in this year's festival include eight very talented and very spirited drill teams, several Black employees groups, the All-City marching band, the Black Contractors, the Queen and princesses of Hal Jackson's Talented Teens, Charko's, the Seafair Queen and princesses, classic autos, and Debo the Clown.

Floats include Roslyn Black Pioneers, and the KOMO For Kids Sake float featuring television personality Connie Thompson and The Wheedle.

Reigning over the parade will be the 1992 African American Soul Festival

Africans Americans Angry Over Dismantling Of Black Family Center

David Bash
Staff Reporter

The Black Family Center (BFC), located in the Randolph Carter Building at 23rd and Yesler and which offered health outreach, education, information and referral and emergency assistance to the centrally located African American community, is no more.

That revelation was announced at a community information meeting held at New Hope Baptist Church last Thursday night called by members of the BFC's Community Advisory Board angered over the dismantling of the center.

According to information presented at that meeting, the BFC has been gutted of its staff, budget and community service operations. The center's program manager left in April, the program assistant was transferred to the Welfare Rights Organization in May, the community outreach person's position was terminated in June, and the director of the BFC has

Scholarship King and Queen, Mark Smith and Elizabeth Pauley.

Their court will include first runners-up King and Queen, Ahmed Jenkins and Mynique Perkins, and second place King and Queen, Chris Bell and Maleka Gary.

The 1992 Unity Parade will be the hottest event this year so mark your calendar for Saturday, July 18 and come out and support our community and our Freedom Fighters!

Spectators are encouraged to arrive early to get a good spot to watch this exciting and colorful event. Be sure to bring all your parade gear such as a chair, an umbrella, sunglasses, hats, binoculars and your coolest summer outfit.

And there is still time if you want to be part of the action and participate in the parade. Call Barbara Laners at 323-3070. Tomorrow is the last day to register, so hurry!

See you at the parade!

POLITICAL POTPOURRI

Politics, Politics, Politics

Politics are in the air. From the White House to the courthouse, people are vying for our votes. People are saying things to capture our attention. On the local scene, Mayor Rice finds himself caught up in the political ballyhoo. Mr. Mayor finds himself caught between the need to participate in the national happenings and to stop the fires lighting on the homefront. Mr. Mayor's considerable prestige is needed if the drug loitering law is to be given a new life. The war drums are beating. Mr. Mayor finds himself being encircled. It is truth or consequences time. It is time for Mr. Mayor to decide if the human cost is more important than the creature comforts of the downtown business establishment. Politics tend to bring out the beast in us, including those in decision-making positions. Life is hard at the top.

Southern Ticket

Bubba's dreams have come true. He has finally succeeded in capturing the top spot on a major political party. The Democrats are pressed to nominate two good ole boys to lead them through the upcoming Presidential free for all. Bill, the presidential nominee- apparent, has chosen Al Gore of Tennessee as his running mate. The South has risen again. Bubba is in red neck heaven. Black folks' worst nightmare may have been realized. Two good ole boys have the potential of holding our destiny in their hands. Two good ole boys who talk out of both sides of their mouth. Two good ole boys who say one thing to us via the NAACP and another to Bubba via the Democratic Council. Will the real Bill and Al stand and deliver?

You People

Ross Perot went to the NAACP Annual Convention as did the Democratic Presidential wanna-bees. Mr. Bush was being presidential and chose to ignore the little people. Oh well, that's meant for another comment. At issue is the slip of lip by Mr. Perot. His people had not schooled him in the proper usage of the phrase "you people". Black Folk see yellow when they are referred to as such. Well, "when ignorance is bliss, tis folly to be wise". Mr. Perot is on that score blissful in his ignorance. Well, he received a lesson in race politics from the members of the oldest, most polite civil rights organization in the country. Mr. Perot will think twice before he uses the term "you people". Those polite people at the NAACP were down right offended by the man. It is too bad that the same sense of outrage was not expressed about Bill Clinton's attack on a young Black woman to make a point with white men.

City's Hungry

A story in one of the local daily newspapers said that 1992 is a bad year for the city's hungry. Well that depends upon where you sit. If you are safely ensconced in your job and home you can make that comparison. For those who are without, this year is no worse than any other year. Their bags are always half empty. They and their children are always concerned about the source of their next meal. This year is a bad year. Last year was a bad year. Next year will be a bad year unless we act to solve the problems of poverty in our community. The poor may be with us always, but we all can do just a little to make their lives more bearable.

Words of Wisdom

There is a move afoot by those under the gun to use us to show up their position. They are being referred to by some in our community as opportunistic racists. They buy, we sell. They are in the market for buying souls and we are in the market for selling ours to promote our creature comforts. We seem to be easily bought these days. We sell ourselves for such pittance. Judas sold Christ for 30 pieces of silver. Some of us are selling out the Black community for 30 pieces of silver. We should ask ourselves if the selling price is worth the legacy we are leaving to our children.

(Cont'd. On Page 4a)