

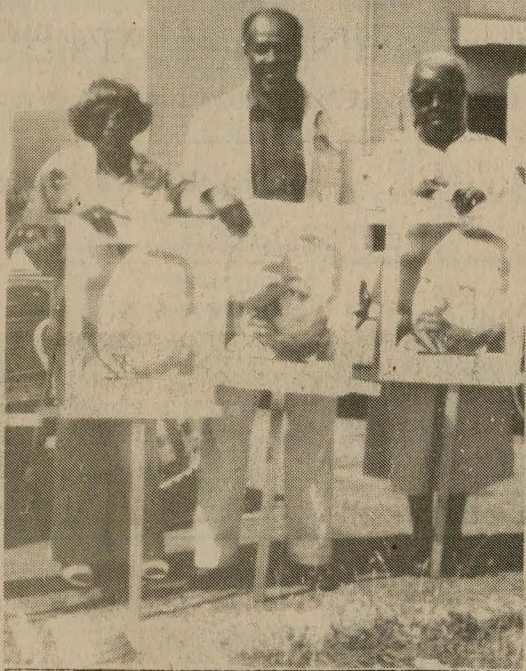
A 20 Year Reunion For Protestors

Text and Photos By CHRIS BENNETT

Twenty years ago John Cannon, director of Central Area Senior Citizens Center, 86-year-old Sarah Lynch, and her daughter, Daisy Boyetta met in a picket line protesting discrimination in employment at the now defunct A & P Stores in South Seattle.

The infamous reunion was made possible when several south end merchants sued the city of Seattle for changing the name of Empire Way after civil rights leader and Nobel Peace Prize Winner the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The Coalition for RESPECT is boycotting and picketing many of those businesses.

Cannon, a south end resident, said, "One of the reasons I am here is because I took exception to Sternod's attitude and



Shown above in a twenty-year reunion on the picket line are 86-year old Sarah Lynch, John Cannon and Mrs. Lynch's daughter, Daisy Boyetta.

insensitivity to community desires." He and others, among his early customers and supporters.

Letters To The Editor...

A Slap In The Face

Dear Editor:

The arrogance displayed by business proprietors of Martin Luther King, Jr. Way is a slap in the face to the Black community. They have a gross disregard for the prestige and honor of the most compassionate of men.

The suing of the city for Mayor Royer's applauded decision to name Martin Luther King, Jr. Way (a long overdue tribute as an investigation of all major cities in the U.S. would show) is ludicrous. These men should not be permitted to pursue their course without monetary reprisal to demonstrate our repugnance at their weakly veiled bigotry (how much does one Seafair ac-

tivity cost?)

If the businesses are truly located on Martin Luther King, Jr. Way, they most surely have a number of Black clientele. I call for all people of the community to boycott the businesses. I can assure you the \$500 to \$1,000 for new stationery he sorely anticipates won't look so bad if we withdrew our trade.

I implore the editor to publish a list of the businesses named as plaintiffs in the suit. If any of these businesses are buying advertisements in The Medium or Facts, I believe that account should be examined closely. For surely we have a cause.

-Howard L. Phillips

Principles Over Profit

Dear Editor:

This is a letter demanding that principles be valued over profit. It is also an issue of respect for the contributions on Black leadership and heroism.

The Empire Way Merchants Association insists that what our leader died for is not worth the cost of a name change on their store fronts or business stationery. This posture is an insult to every man, woman, and child in our city. The businesses which make up the Empire Way Merchants Association are immediately surrounded by a large ethnic population of non-whites. This means that non-whites comprise a large part of their clientele. It appears these merchants have taken the patronage of these residents for granted.

Should we sit idly by and allow a group mentality to exist in our community that is so willing to stand up and openly devalue the accomplishments of the World Leader, Noble Peace Prize winner, and Theologian, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.? On the contrary, as parents, teachers, workers, and business persons we are going to stand up for those principles of justice, freedom, and equality that are basic to this country and the dignity of us all.

I ask of you today and in the months ahead to help support and protect our

leaders. Help build, preserve, and multiply our own institutions. Let us not spend our money in stores that don't respect our needs and the contributions made by our leaders.

Support the boycott of the Empire Way Mer-

chants who are pooling their money (which they are getting from you) to sue the city for renaming Empire Way, Martin Luther King, Jr. Way South.

-CAMP

Reciprocity, A Matter Of Respect...

Dear Editor:

Reciprocity, a matter of respect and fair return on investment, must become the watch word that guides our struggle through the 80's. It is what Dr. King meant when he said "better walk in dignity than ride in shame."

It is time for us to stand up and begin to strengthen ourselves. We must support our own organizations and institutions. Our unrealized and underutilized power must be released. We cannot and should not support those businesses that don't respect us.

Eddie Rye, Jr., community activist and co-founder of the Coalition For Respect, recently requested Blacks to boycott businesses that are challenging the name-change of Empire Way to Martin Luther King, Jr. Way. Call it selective patronage or boycotting, the highest court in the land has confirmed our right to do so.

-Tony Orange

The U.S. Supreme Court, on the final day of the 1981-82 session, in NAACP vs Claiborne Hardware, proclaimed local boycotts a constitutionally, protected activity, in legitimate pursuit of political, social and economic change.

It is time to launch attack on racism with disciplined Black Consumer Dollars. The Black Consumer Dollars is now at 140 billion dollars plus. As Earl Graves, publisher and editor of Black Enterprise Magazine notes, the highly volatile and competitive consumer market in this country can be altered by a mere 2% in consistent shift in sales. Two percent, just 2% consistent in sales can lead to a 20% dip in profits. At rock bottom, Blacks are 5% of somebody's market, and all you need to be is 2%. Thus we are the margin of profit of almost all the major consumer industries in this country.

The War Is Not Won

Dear Editor:

The battle is waged in the fight to change Empire Way to Martin Luther King, Jr. Way. The mayor signed a bill approving the change and if everything goes as planned Martin Luther King Jr. Way can be a reality.

The change was to be effective in September. The problem is that the war is not won. There are a few merchants whose businesses are located along the southern end of this stretch of road running from East Madison on the north side to I-5 on the south, who feel that any minor inconvenience that this may bring is more than they are willing to give up.

The first complaint from these merchants was the expense involved in changing stationery, letterhead, etc. The solution to this weak excuse came readily when the post office agreed to continue mail deliveries to the Empire Way addresses for a full year. Surely letterhead and stationery supplies will be replaced within that time.

Another excuse the merchants have fabricated is that they would rather see the money go to feed the hungry and help the poor. As I said this statement is a fabrication, a sham to cover up the real reason for their rejecting the name change. These merchants are aware, as I am that in our governmental budgeting process each area of funding has its own budget and the funds earmarked for road improvements and changes are not used for social services. These are separate areas with equally separate budgets.

What this really means to the community is that the funds allocated for the name-change are there for that and similar purposes. If these monies are not used in your area for this project then they go back into the budget and can just as well go to another community for changes or improvements on their streets.

Don't be fooled by the deceptive excuses put forth by those who speak on the one hand about excessive cost incurred if the change is enacted then on the other hand go through considerable expense to fight the change in a lawsuit.

The real reason behind this double tongued talk is racism, and a lack of respect for Blacks. This kind of thought must not be given a chance to grow right in our own backyard.

Martin Luther King, Jr. was a peaceful warrior for equality and brotherhood, he fought for all people to be able to live together in harmony. He fought for the children to have a better life. He fought for an America devoid of racism. Martin Luther King Jr. fought for dignity. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. a Nobel Peace prize winning American is being afforded no respect by those who oppose naming a street in his honor.

The simple act of changing the name of a street will not decrease employment rate for Blacks nor will it put food in the mouths of hungry children (it won't take any out either). What this name change will do is give little Black children an outstanding model and at the same time let others become increasingly aware of the positive influence of this great man

on the United States.

A street named after a man of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s caliber instills pride and dignity in the hearts of Black children, it gives them something of significance to call their own. What else is there in Seattle of equal importance for Black children to associate with?

I think that I can easily say that Martin would not suggest, a street be named in his honor but I'm sure if he were alive he would understand the positive impact this simple measure has had on millions of Blacks where the street names have already been changed and realize the equally important situation in Seattle.

Don't be fooled by wolves in sheeps clothing. Recognize the importance of your dollars and be selective in using it. Those who have no respect for your culture and who would belittle you by using simple ploys that are far below the average person's intelligence, do not deserve your support. The Black community in Seattle is growing and it's time we recognized the power in our numbers especially our monetary numbers.

Last Saturday there were people out boycotting those who take our money and try to take our respect along with it. This effort needs the support of everyone. If you are unable to walk in the boycott lines then support the effort by refusing to patronize the businesses involved. There is a lot of clout in Black buying power. Let's exercise that power. We all have our dignity within. We must show it and demand respect.

-Annette Caldwell



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SPC - \$25.00
SPC - \$25.00
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