

AND THAT'S FOR REAL

Save Our Children

by KWAME McDONALD

While there are signs of progress in race relations in Kitsap County, the treatment of youth of color continues to cause problems.

Many cases, reported and unreported, have come to our attention which suggest unequal treatment between white students and students of color. The incidents which accuse teachers, school administrators, officers of the law and others of power, jurisdiction and authority over our young, are many.

Something must be done. Over the past two weeks, I have talked with several teens who feel discriminated against. In and of itself, such a charge is understandable and not new.

The most disturbing fact is that these students, with very few exceptions, feel alone, abandoned and isolated by those of us who should care the most. That is adults of color. In some cases, they even feel their own parents have abandoned them to protect the "good relationships" they think they have with the white power community.

There is no doubt, that what the students feel is real. For us to question their feelings or their reality is to not support them.

We must, while recognizing and indeed endorsing their feelings as legitimate, help the students in two ways:

1. We must help them develop

effective success strategies and coping skills; and

2. We must support them in their confrontations with the power community in Kitsap County.

We will be doing something about this situation soon. Stay tuned!

If you have any thoughts on these or other issues, feel free to call me

at 373-8825 or 478-6976.

We must *save our children*, not by slogans, sayings or rhetoric. We must *save our children* by action.

And That's For Real!

COMMUNITY NEWS

Vanguard Sponsors 1993 Armed Forces Parade

Vanguard is an office equipment and furniture dealership headquartered in Silverdale, with additional offices in Aberdeen, Everett, Sequim and Spokane.

Armed Forces Week will begin with the Armed Forces Queen's

Pageant which enables young people of Kitsap County to earn scholarships for their achievements. Other events scheduled include a golf tournament, a luncheon and an After-Hours sponsored by the Bremerton Area Chamber of

Commerce.

Anyone interested in assisting with any of this year's events may leave their name and telephone number with the Bremerton Area Chamber of Commerce at (206) 479-3579.

The Bremerton Armed Forces Festival Association and the Bremerton Area Chamber of Commerce have announced that Vanguard Office Systems, Inc. will be sponsoring this year's Armed Forces Day Parade. The Association also announced that John Curtis will be serving as this year's Festival Chairperson.

The 1993 Vanguard Armed Forces Day Parade will be held in downtown Bremerton on Saturday, May 15. As in previous years, the anticipated crowd of parade watchers will number over 20,000. "We're very excited and pleased to be sponsoring an event as eagerly anticipated as the Grand Parade," stated Emil Reynolds, president of Vanguard Office Systems, Inc.

Project Family Seeks Board Members

Project Family is inviting county residents interested in the welfare of children and in strengthening families to apply for membership on the agency's Board of Trustees.

Project Family is a non-profit, United Way agency that works to foster healthy environments for

children and provide information, referral and support for parents and all those who care for and nurture children.

Project Family seeks to recruit board members with a strong interest or background in children's issues, who have solid community

relations and a concern for multicultural issues. Board members oversee the direction of the agency, contribute to public awareness of family issues and direct fund-raising efforts. Interested individuals should contact Mary Serbousek, executive director, at 373-3030 for more information.

CIVIL RIGHTS JOURNAL

The Fire Of Racism In Tampa...

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courts of Florida in this case. The U.S. Department of Justice should also become involved in this matter because it is a clear case of the criminal violations of Wilson's civil rights. During the past 12 years, under the Reagan/Bush era, federal authorities were not aggressive in intervening in the growing number of these types of cases.

The Florida Department of Law Enforcement has released statistics that confirm that the Tampa Bay

area has one of the state's largest percentages of racial and hate related crimes. While the Tampa Bay area is only approximately 13 percent of Florida's population, over 25 percent of the state's hate and racial crimes have occurred in Tampa. The fire of racism in Tampa, however, has been kindled by a nation that refuses to demand racial justice for all people. The drowning of Haitian refugees off the coast of Florida because of a racist immigration policy is directly related to the racist burning of Christopher Wilson.

Tolerance of one form of racism only leads to the perpetuation of other manifestations of racism.

We remember that it was also Tampa, several years ago, where an African American baseball star was brutally beaten by six white police officers after being stopped for an alleged traffic violation. Dwight Gooden of the New York Mets was a victim of a racially motivated attack by Tampa police officers.

The future stability of democracy in the United States hinges in part on how effectively racism is

eradicated, especially in its institutionalized formation. Somehow the message has got to be sent to the rigid forces of racism that this society will no longer tolerate racist ideology and behavior. Christopher Wilson was set afire by those who believe that such acts are now once again socially tolerable. Silence in the face of this hideous

crime is itself a mandate for reoccurrence.

As Christopher Wilson attempts to recover his life from the beating and fire in Tampa, may we all recommit ourselves to reawakening a national "movement" of all people unified in the demand for freedom and justice for everybody.

FROM PAGE ONE

Thurgood Marshall...

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die while Reagan is in office, prop me up an keep on voting."

Although he outlasted Reagan, he was replaced by another conservative, President George Bush. Bush appointed the second African American to serve on the

Supreme Court, Clarence Thomas, after Marshall retired.

Marshall believed that in this democratic society the ways to challenge an unjust law are:

1. By intelligent use of the vote in order to spur elected officials to change the law; and
2. By action in the courts if its validity is doubtful.

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