AND THAT'S FOR REAL

On Whom Can Our Children Depend?

by KWAME McDONALD

Five — four present and one former — Bremerton High School students have vandalized the principals home. The home was egged and the vandals left a sign that called Marilee Hansen "An African American Sympathizer" and it was signed KKK, which, according to the student vandals, stood for Knights, the school mascot.

The vandalism occurred January 2, 1993. There are many questions concerning this incident:

1. Why has it taken so long for it to be dealt with?;

2. Does the school have no administrative procedures to cover such vandalism?;

3. Is this yet another manifestation of what many believe to be a double standard in the treatment of students of color as against the treatment of white students?;

4. While there are procedures for students to deal with the student who is a student government officer, what will be the course of action concerning the other students?; and

5. What would have happened had these students been Black?

These are but a few of the many questions people have raised during this process.

Too often people want problems to just fade away and die of its own volition. It again raises the question whether or not people who are in powerful decision-making positions are capable of dealing honestly, decisively and with dispatch, about problems concerning race.

Our schools are afraid of students of color—the darker the person, the more fear there seems to be. There is a pervasive disregard for people of color. This disregard exemplifies itself in many ways. It seems impossible to escape whether one considers themselves liberal or conservative, bigoted or non-bigoted, prejudiced or non-prejudiced, it is always there. We, as people of color, suffer from the same malady.

This is not to cast blame regarding our collective condition, except to say that it is our responsibility to make sure people in leadership positions understand this and act to correct this imperfection.

Again, here are students looking for leadership. Is it any wonder our students are confused? Is it any wonder these same confused and undereducated students will soon be confused parents, workers, managers and some day, leaders?

They (the students) are not to blame. We, the adults, are. If we do not count ourselves among the powerful, decision-making leaders, we can not escape the fact that we are parents and we do have the right, and in fact, the duty to speak out when we see our children being abused by others — especially those in whom we trust to develop, educate and lead our young.

On whom can our children depend? Malcolm, Martin and Elijah are dead. We must step forward and help our students in their time of need

And That's For Real!

Kwame McDonald is the director of Multi-Cultural Affairs at Olympic College and president of the Bremerton chapter of the NAACP.

EDITORIAL

African American Businesses Important To Economy

by DONALD C. SMITH
Acting Regional Administrator
U.S. Small Business Administration

The personal computer and associated software, the automobile, electricity and powered flight — inventions that define this decade — were the ideas of independent small business people. This century, more than half of our country's innovations originated from small firms with big ideas!

February is African American History Month and the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) encourages all Americans to become more aware of the importance of small businesses, and especially African American-owned businesses, to our economy, to our economic recovery, and its continued quality of life.

Many of the important innovations that we take for granted, from traffic signals, truck refrigeration and automobile turn signals, have come from African Americans.

In 1878, Jan Matzeliger was working in a shoe factory in Lynn, Massachusetts. Watching the lasting being done by hand during the day, and working with scraps of material he developed a mechanical prototype that was to revolutionize the shoe industry.

In 1897, Andrew J. Beard invented the "Jenny Coupler," allowing train cars to be automatically (and safely) linked together, literally saving lives and limbs of fellow railroad workers.

Granville T. Woods, long fascinated by steam and electricity, invented the steam boiler furnace, patented in 1884. That same year he also invented a telephone transmitter which he sold to the Bell Telephone company, and continued on to patent more than 150 inventions ranging from the electric relay switch to train electro-magnetic brakes and a special galvanic battery.

In 1913, Richard Spikes pioneered the automobile turn signal, and continued to refine his talents, inventing the automatic gear shift, and a fail-safe automobile break system (patented just before his death, in 1962).

Garrett A. Morgan, prize winning inventor of an early gas mask, changed the face of the American infrastructure in 1923, with the nation's first automatic traffic signal.

If these examples seem a bit "past history" with the world poised on the brink of space travel, you don't have to look far for timely, relevant, and equally critical contributions from African American men and women across the nation.

Look at the people controlling the panels at Houston Space center, or Bonneville Power or IBM mainframe computers. Look at the innovators guiding chambers of commerce, civic improvement and fulfilling government contracts. Look at the editors grappling with today's most challenging issues. Increasingly these hands, these professions are staffed by African American men and women...and their successes belong to everyone.

As 1993 ushers in renewed hope, the enormous potential of our rich and diverse society promises to fulfill that hope. The U.S. Small Business Administration, established to help small businesses start, survive and grow, welcomes the hope and challenges that are inherent to every new year, and welcomes the spirit and talents of the African American entrepreneur.

REFLECTIONS INVENTIONS FASHIONS MUSIC HISTORY PICTURES CELEBRATIONS LEARNING

Black Historical
Society of Kitsap
County Presents 8th Annual
Black History Month Celebration

Where: Olympic College
(Bremerton Student Center)

When: Sunday, Febuary 28, 1993
Time: 3:30 P.M.

1943-1993: "Celebration of Fifty Years of Black History"

Reflections: Memories of Kitsap County During the 1940's in Words and Pictures

Inventions: What Were the Ideas and Creations of Blacks During the 40's???

Soloist: Charlene Edmond of Emmanuel Apostolic Church

Special Musical Performance: " Latter Rain" of Emerald City

Honoring: A Special Recognition of the 50th Anniversary of the NAACP Bremerton Branch, Charted in 1943

Love Offering

OC Registration To Begin

The View, Olympic College's schedule of classes for spring quarter is due in area mailboxes this week. Registration begins March 1 for continuing students (from winter quarter), by appointment, at the main campus. New and returning students can register March 8-12. New students will register according to the first two letters of their last name on March 8 or 9.

Open registration for all students is available on March 9 from 4-7 p.m. and continues during office hours on March 10, 11 and 12.

Weekday classes begin March 30. Weekend classes begin April 3-4. Students may register for regular credit classes as late as April 5, on a space available basis.

For more information about registration, call the office of Admissions and Records at 478-4504.

Free Income Tax Service Available

Free income tax forms preparation assistance is available for handicapped, elderly, low and moderate income persons through a program known as VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) and TCE (Tax Counseling For The Elderly). The program is sponsored by the IRS (Internal Revenue Services) and is available at no cost.

Volunteer counselors are trained by the Internal Revenue Service to be capable of assisting with most of the problems and forms confronted by this group of taxpayers.

Services are offered Mondays and Fridays starting February 1 through April 12, 12 noon to 4 p.m., at the Sheridan Park Recreation Center, 608 Lebo Boulevard, Bremerton.

If additional information is required, telephone 479-5007.

Boating Education Course Slated

Bremerton Power Squadron will begin their Boating Course Wednesday, March 3, at American Legion Post #68, 2809 Spruce Street, Bremerton, at 7 p.m.

Classes will be held weekly for approximately seven or eight weeks. The boating safety education is available to all boaters, prospective boaters, and water enthusiasts. Boat ownership is not required, and young persons age 12 and over are welcome.

A nominal fee will be charged for materials.

Call Colin McKay, 373-3587; or Carl Wilhelm, 373-8641, for more information.