

AND THAT'S FOR REAL

The Sun Shines Bright

by KWAME MCDONALD

The continued battle for freedom, justice and equality is a tough one. It is sometimes perceived to be very lonely. We sometimes feel that we are the only ones, or at least among the few, who are really committed to the proposition that all people must have equal rights, opportunities and access.

As one who has fought, and continues to fight for our liberation, I can attest to the fact that there are many Afrikan Americans who are sincerely interested in seeing, witnessing and experiencing justice for all.

There are many in Kitsap County who I could mention. To do so, however, would surely result in leaving someone out. There is, however, a compelling need for me to make an exception. It is rare for a columnist writing for one newspaper to give praise to another. The *Sun* deserves praise for its efforts in working toward racial diversity in Kitsap County.

I am sure, if we sat down and really got down to the real nitty-gritty, we would find many areas of disagreement. But reasonable people can disagree on tactics, strategies, methodologies and even goals.

Why is the *Sun* an exception? Because of its potential, alleged and real power. It is accepted that the media influences minds, actions and results. It has been a contention of mine that it was the media that convinced us to love, hate and love the Russians—all within my lifetime.

The *Sun*, through its news and editorial policy, has shown consistency in its interest in bettering relationships between the races. As a diligent student of the nuances and subtleties of media expression, believe me, I know the difference between what is **For Real** and what ain't.

Of course, no one is perfect. The *Sun* does feature a columnist of questionable depth, breadth and intellectual capacity. That columnist is quite narrow, simplistic and backward in her views about race. Also, I wish the *Sun* would quit publishing police reports as if they were fact based.

So, what else is it that the *Sun* does that is so great? Many of its employees are active volunteers in such organizations as the Bremerton Area Chamber of Commerce, Kitsap County Human Rights Council's

Diversity Committee, Community Resource Center and the NAACP. *Sun* employees are also involved in coaching youth teams that resemble the United Nations.

The *Sun's* personnel department is aggressively pursuing people of color to become employees. They do employ writers, feature columnists and have supervisors

who are people of color. As impressive as all of this is, they are going further.

As a public service, they have provided advertisement, promotion and information about activities that encourage better relationships among people.

The full page ads featuring Martin Luther King, Jr. is a current

example. Incidentally, you may get a copy of that ad in poster form by simply going to the *Sun* and requesting the number you need.

The most impressive act of all, however, was an announcement that the *Sun's* editor, Mike Phillips, made at a recent Diversity Committee meeting. He said, "We are going to take a page out of

MADD's (Mother's Against Drunk Driving) book. We are going to make bigotry and discrimination socially unacceptable."

This is a bold move by an organization that is vulnerable to subscription withdrawals and advertisement cancellations.

Thanx *Sun*, we are with you.
And That's For Real!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Impressed With Puget Sound Naval Shipyard

To the editor:

I worked my way through the University of Washington by washing dishes and working in mental institutions. My grades were good enough for graduate school.

My first job was as a social worker, giving away money. It did not take long to realize that giving away money did people absolutely no good in the long run.

I remember being disgusted at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard (PSNS) workers coming out from work, all dirty and smelly.

Then I took a machinist

apprenticeship at PSNS. It was a great deal more difficult than it had been to be successful at the University of Washington.

I taught machinist apprentices for five years at the apprentice school. I was greatly impressed with the motivation, intelligence, and practicality of apprentices. Almost all of them could have had college degrees very easily.

I have read over a hundred of the heaviest books of Western civilization that I could get my hands on in the past five years.

I know first hand how inferior the academic structure is in this country. The average planner and estimator at PSNS has more background in his little finger than the average public school teacher has in his whole body.

Being able to do things with one's own hands is immensely satisfying. Background and planning make it possible to accomplish anything a person wants to accomplish.

I have almost completed reading a book about Macauley, the great English statesman. I look at the

politicians in England in the 1830's. They were all out of Oxford and Cambridge. Most American politicians are barely literate.

I muck-rake a lot of things in society, but I will never muck-rake PSNS, because I was greatly impressed by the general intelligence and practicality there.

America is dedicated to inferiority. I was lucky enough to escape much of it by working in the Yard for 30 years.

KEN SPURLING
Silverdale

Kwanzaa Display Was Informative

To the editor:

On behalf of the Harrison Hospital Foundation and the Festival of Trees, I would like to thank the Kitsap County Chronicle and the NAACP for providing your

display "Kwanzaa — A Celebration of Family, Community and Culture." This was my first introduction to this Black celebration, and your handout was very informative. Thank you for

your involvement in this years event.

We will soon be involved with the planning of next years event. It would be great to have you more

involved, if time allows. Please call me if you're interested or know of anyone who would like a fun community project.

SUSAN J. PHILLIPS
Special Event Coordinator

COMMUNITY NEWS

SBA Offers Counseling for Small Businesses

Beginning January 14, the Service Corps of Retired Executives co-sponsored by Small Business Administration and the Bremerton, Central Kitsap, and Greater Poulsbo Chamber of Commerces are offering counseling at no charge.

Persons contemplating a new business or persons in business who would like to discuss management, financing, marketing, or various other business matters with an experienced, retired business person should call one of the above chambers for an appointment.

SBA and SCORE also host three regular workshops designed especially for beginning entrepreneurs:

- Loan Proposal Packaging — No

workshop in January.

- The Business Plan — January 14, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. \$35.

- Starting a New Business — January 20, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. \$35.

All workshops held at the Jackson Federal Building, 915 Second Avenue in Seattle. For further information call: (206) 553-8403 or (206) 553-1420.

Parent Education Classes Available

Project Family will introduce two new classes to the regular Parent Education offerings for winter quarter.

"Parenting the Distractible or Difficult Child" will focus on the

needs of parents of children with symptoms of Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder.

This nine-week class will meet Tuesdays from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Woodlands Elementary School, 7420 Central Valley Road.

Project Family will also introduce "The Next STEP", the new seven-week follow-up program to the Systematic Training for Effective Parenting series.

The class will meet Wednesdays from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Ridgeway Jr. High, 10600 Hillsboro Drive NW, Beginning February 10.

Project Family will also offer other classes at various times and locations throughout the county.

The cost for all STEP classes is \$30 for a single and \$35 for a couple.

For more information and registration, call 373-3030.

MARTIN LUTHER KING, Jr.
January 18

"I have the audacity to believe that peoples everywhere can have three meals a day for their bodies, education and culture for their minds, and dignity, equality and freedom for their spirits.

I believe that what self-centered men have torn down, other-centered men can build up."



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