

Bubbleville shows youthful dreams

by Chuck Goodmacher

Martin Luther King, Jr.'s dream, in which all people share together in creating their collective future, became reality last week for the children of Woodlawn and Brooklyn elementary schools through their creation of "Bubbleville." Assisted by special project leader Elijah Mirochnik, "Bubbleville" was the culmination of a two-week learning process about King's dream—one the students are sure to remember for a long time to come.

"It's important for the kids not just to have the dream," said Mirochnik, "but to know how to build it."

"Bubbleville," or the "dream dome," is an air-inflated plastic structure complete with pictures and maps of the Woodlawn and Brooklyn neighborhoods as well as a model neighborhood build of index cards. The students presented the dome to City Commissioner Charles Jordan last Friday at Terry Schunk Park.

In just two short weeks, Mirochnik brought the kids from studying some of the concepts of King's dream, (cooperation, compromise and understanding), to an experience in which the dream was shared

by all. "We made it for Martin Luther King," said Christian King of Woodlawn Elementary School.

The children learned to cooperatively resolve conflicts which arose in the design process—particularly about the shape of the park in the model city. Some children thought "Brooklawn Park" should be round and others square. One even wanted a pizza parlor in the middle of the park. A round park was finally agreed on.

"The children learned 'both sides win,'" said Mirochnik, "and that's what they've learned through the process."

Commissioner Jordan commented how the city looked like a very nice place to live—a city much like Martin Luther King's dream of "people living together, working together." A loud, unanimous "yes" came in response to the Commissioner's query: "Is this the kind of city you want to live in?"

"Bubbleville" is only the first of a series of "pairing projects" to bring together students from different schools. Funding for the special projects comes from the Tri-County Talented and Gifted Fund. Mirochnik teaches architecture for the Portland Public School District.



DR. LEE BROWN

(Photo: Richard J. Brown)

Brown on crime

by Lanita Duke

Grassroot News, N.W.—Former Multnomah County Director of Justice Services Lee Brown celebrated the birthday of the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., by telling the Metropolitan Human Relations Commission's annual awards banquet that it was their obligation to finish Dr. King's unfinished business.

"The dilemma that confronts us today is a confrontation between those forces which compel society to change and those forces that seek to

maintain the status quo."

This confrontation, according to Brown, exists while America plays a game of pretending there are no problems associated with being non-white or poor in America.

"Today we have three times more Blacks living under the poverty line. We have twice as many whites graduating from high school than non-whites, and a disparity in prison sentencing—non-whites comprise half of all the jail and prison population."

Brown left Portland in 1978 to become Atlanta's police chief. As police chief, Brown's jurisdiction was during the tragedy of Atlanta's child murders which left 23 children and three young Black men dead. In an interview, he said that investigation "gave me an appreciation for the neglect of young people in our society—a society that preaches that children are our most precious resources while in reality there is a great deal of abuse in many different ways."

Brown also said the problem of Black-on-Black crime and the disproportionate number of Afro-Americans behind bars go hand in hand.

"Blacks throughout the country are more likely to be the victims of all crimes because of the social-economic problems in our society. While, at the same time, the Administration of Justice has to be looked at in the context that over 50 percent of those in jail or prison are non-white."

Brown said he was not aware if a Black police executive reduces the crime rate. "They do bring a duality into that position. They are Black; thus they have lived the Black experience and understand the problems that exist and know which resources are needed. If that makes them an asset to the position then they are an asset."

Brown is currently an "asset" to Texas. He is the police chief of Houston.



L - R: Rev. Dr. Levi B. Baldwin, keynote speaker at Monday's King Day Celebration at Jefferson High School and Rev. Wayne M. Reynolds with

Reynolds' portrait of Dr. King. The painting will hang at King Neighborhood Facility.

(Photo: Richard J. Brown)

My dream for the world

(Continued from page 1, column 6)

My dream

by Allison Oberbillig
Grade 8

My greatest dream is for equality. Equality for women, and equality among all races. I want this because the world has evolved to a place where strength and dominance is proved by one's color or sex. I know this is wrong. A person should not grow up thinking that because one is white or male, they are superior to Blacks and women. This thought is taught from childhood, and it is the duty of the children of today to make this idea obsolete. This dream, "... that one day the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slaveowners will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood..." of Martin Luther King, Jr., is also my dream.

When I was in the third grade I experienced sex discrimination for the first time. What happened was that a librarian called our classroom and asked for two strong kids to carry books for her. My teacher sent my best friend and me down to help her. When we arrived, the librarian said, "Go back to your classroom and tell your teacher that I need two boys." Furiously, my friend and I did as told, but then wrote a letter of complaint to the librarian. She called us down to her room after receiving the note, and explained to us that boys are stronger than girls. We expected her explanation, but knew that we were as strong as the average eight-year-old boy, which, of course, was true.

The opinion, "boys are stronger than girls," needs to be changed. The way to do this is by teaching people the different muscle strengths of men and women. For example, it has been proved that women have potentially stronger lower body muscles than men, while a man's upper torso is stronger than a woman's.

There is a very powerful group that works to prevent my dream for equality and non-racism. This group is the Ku Klux Klan. The KKK is associated with the despised Nazis of Germany. The Klansmen also use the swastika emblem. The Klan trains its members to "kill Jews and Niggers in the coming race war." The only way to prevent this belief from growing is to educate people. Or, perhaps I should say, in some cases, re-educate the people, as racism has been taught.

There is a song in the musical *South Pacific*, entitled, "You've Got To Be Carefully Taught." This song tells how people learn to be racist, "... to hate all the people your relatives hate..." This song also explains the root cause of racism—fear. "You've got to be taught to be afraid of people whose eyes are oddly made, or people whose skins are a different shade, you've got to be carefully taught." This movie, made in the 1950s, is based on racism and the great unhappiness derived from it. It's too bad that not enough people heard the song and many other teachings and changed their feelings. Maybe if they had, the '60s wouldn't have been so hard for Black Americans.

I've encountered some racism in my life, but not as much as some kids. Since I go to Harriet Tubman Middle School, I think I have been sheltered from racism, as my school is totally integrated. I don't think that anyone at our school worries if they're sitting with a black girl or a white girl. Everyone is neutral. I had a friend who one day asked me what school I went to, and after I said

"Harriet Tubman" he replied, "Oh, that nigger school." We are no longer friends.

I hope that one day my dream for equality for all Americans, all humans, will come true. If it does become a reality, I know it won't be from a wish upon a star. It will have been achieved by many hardworking, caring individuals.

NOW to picket Republicans

The Portland chapter of the National Organization for Women will picket Republican State Central Committee headquarters, 620 S.W. Fifth Avenue, Portland, at 12:00 noon on January 21, 1984, to commemorate the eleventh anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*, the Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion. During the protest, NOW members will distribute leaflets to educate the public about President Reagan's desire to return to the pre-1973 era of dangerous, illegal abortion.

"Since his election, President Reagan has launched a major assault against women's right to decide when and whether to have children. He seeks to return to a time when even rape or incest victims had to bear unwanted children, when hundreds of women died each year from botched abortions. Yet according to an August 1983 Gallup poll, only 16 percent of Americans favor a total ban on abortion, similar to the one which Reagan has lobbied for," stated Tia Plympton,

Portland chapter NOW president. "Four more years of this Administration would virtually guarantee the reconsideration of *Roe v. Wade* by a more conservative Supreme Court. The President need only appoint two more justices to reverse this decision, and five of the pro-choice justices now serving are over 73 years old," she continued.

"This Administration hypocritically claims to be 'pro-life,' but really believes that life begins at conception and ends at birth. Through his budgets, policies, appointments, and regulatory proposals, Ronald Reagan has systematically attacked the quality of life for millions of American women and children. NOW believes that women simply cannot afford four more years of a President determined to end their ability to make responsible decisions about childbearing or childrearing," Plympton concluded.

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