

COMMENTARY: CHARLES Z. SMITH

Unsung heroes in black communities

Last week 29 persons from the "grass roots" of Seattle and Tacoma's black communities were honored at a banquet sponsored by a newspaper published in Seattle's Central Area.

Nominations for the First Annual Black Communities Merit Awards came from the community. The newspaper's publisher, Chris Bennett, said the 29 men and women were persons who had made "substantial contributions to the Black Community without any notice or reward." They included poverty workers, welfare mothers, community and church volunteers, ministers, teachers, athletes and professionals.

The Mahalia Jackson Spiritual Award -- named for the great gospel singer -- was given by the judges jointly to Mrs. Harriet Greenwood and Mrs. Mary Lou Williams. Mrs. Greenwood was cited for pioneering in school transfer programs for Central Area students; and for organizing a project for the handicapped and disabled. Mrs. Williams was cited for organizing the Welfare Rights Organization in Seattle.

Winner of the Martin Luther King Humanitarian Award was Mrs. Flo Ware. With a large group of happy supporters in attendance, Mrs. Ware was cited for years of service, including participation in organization of the Seattle and Central Area School Council; service on the Model Cities Health Advisory Board; providing a home for more than 20 foster children; and involvement in practically every volunteer program in the Central Area.

The Central Area has set a fine example. I believe that every community

should begin to recognize the work of the "unsung heroes." It is time, I think, for the established institutions to stop creating artificial leaders and heroes for our communities without the consent of the people they claim to represent.

Our nation was built on the sweat of heroes whose names will never be known. We cannot afford to make the mistakes of history and continue to ignore the little people who work hard to preserve our democracy.

(Permission Charles
Z. Smith/KOMU)

Nixon's proposal spells disaster says Maxie

Representative Peggy Maxie from Seattle's 37th District today attacked the recent Presidential Budget Proposal. "This means absolute chaos for certain areas in the district. The end of welfare reform programs means termination of the necessary efforts toward creation of work alternatives and job rehabilitation. This then creates a circular problem," she explained.

"Many people have no job skills, with no job training available, there will be many able-bodied men and women with no jobs. Their only alternative is welfare. People feel trapped and helpless." Unemployment and difficulties with public assistance have plagued parts of the 37th District which is multi-racial and encompasses all income levels.

Schools are Rep. Max-

ie's other concern. "Cutbacks in Federal Matching Funds will probably result in placing more of the financial burden on the student. Many funds for the so-called 'disadvantaged' student will be in jeopardy." She believes that these potential developments could result in students demanding more say in university governance.

Rep. Maxie concludes that the frustrations created by the budget cutbacks will cause further problems and tensions across the state.

"At this point we do not yet know how to react or see all the possible consequences. We must try only to make provisions for the ultimate disaster. In the past we have responded to calls for assistance abroad, now we must turn to our domes-

tic problems and reach out to assist one another to build a strong future for this country."

No special meals for Muslim prisoners

NEW ORLEANS (NBNS) - The Fifth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals has upheld a lower court ruling that the refusal of federal prison officials in Atlanta to serve special meals to Black Muslim inmates does not violate their freedom of religion. The Muslims may

urt said, but they are not constitutionally deprived.

JAZZ GREAT DIES

Edward (Kid) Ory, the Dixieland jazz great who wrote "Muskrat Ramble" and gave Louis Armstrong one of his first jobs, died here Tuesday at the age of 86.

A family spokesman said Mr. Ory, who moved here with his wife and daughter in 1966, was stricken with pneumonia and heart failure and had been hospitalized since Jan. 9.

Born in La Place, La., on Dec. 25, 1886, Mr. Ory's musical career -- which spanned almost seven decades -- brought him into contact with many legendary jazz figures, among them Armstrong, Jelly Roll Morton, King Oliver, and W.C. Handy.



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