

THE MEDIUM

a message from the people . . . to the people

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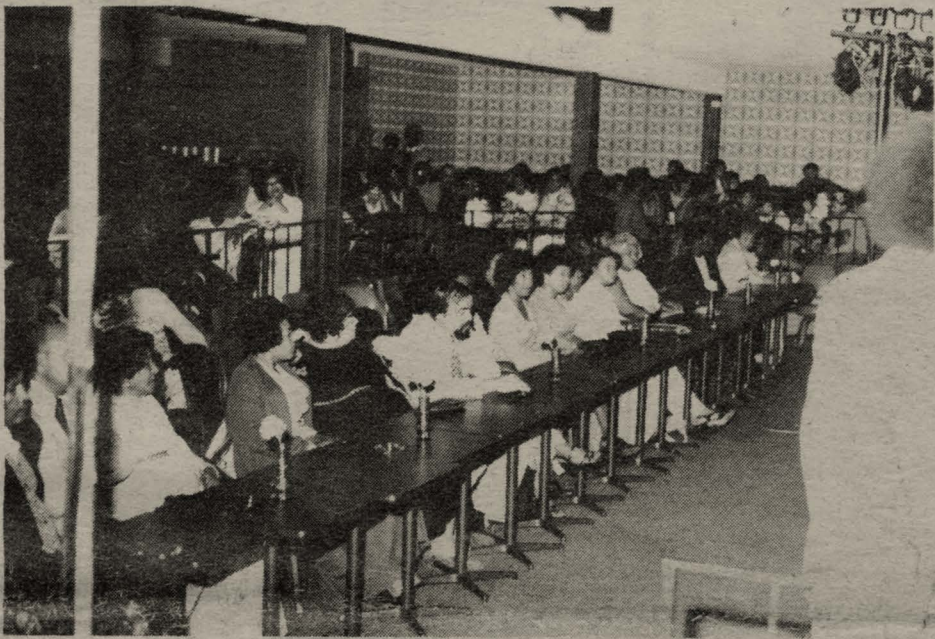
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Unsung Hero Awards Program Big Success



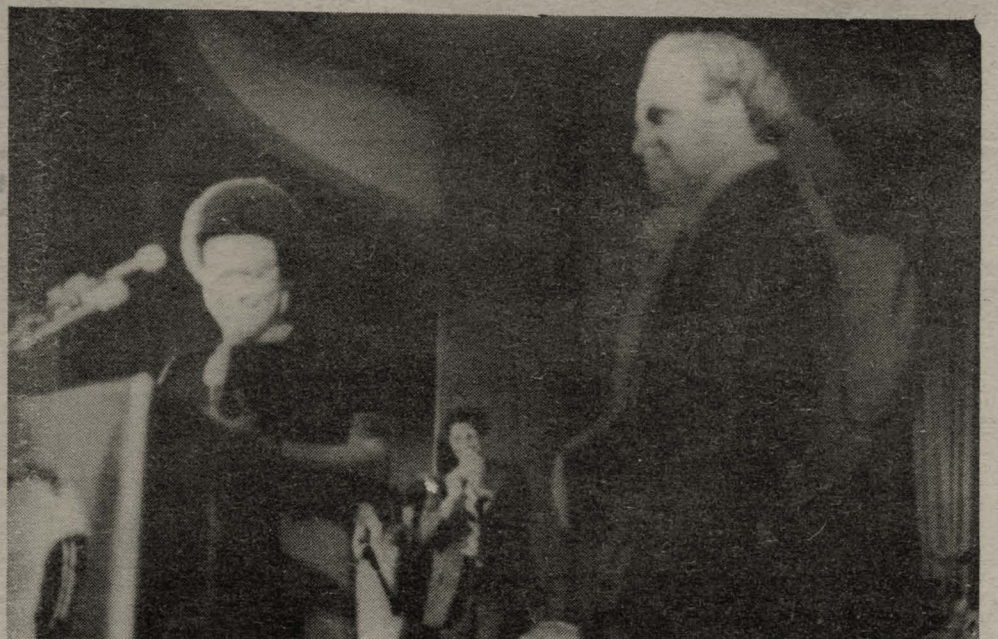
The 25 nominees await the big decision.



The Total Experience Gospel Choir getting down



Mating Luther King winners [l] Reginald Frye and Emile Wilson [r] chat with Linda Wright, television hostess.



Pat Wright Receives Mahalia Jackson Award.

Carolyn Porter

For the first time on live television, the Medium Newspaper featured its third annual Unsung Heroes Award Ceremony last Saturday at the New Heritage House.

A standing room only crowd jammed their way in to watch Pat Wright receive the prestigious Mahalia Jackson Spiritual Award and both Reginald Frye and Emil Wilson were recipients of the honorable Dr. Martin Luther King Humanitarian Award.

The ceremony had all of the ingredients for an Academy Award affair, being composed of dedicated community persons, an audience from all walks of life.

Live and in color on NBC's 5, residents of Seattle had the opportunity to observe the Total Experience Choir rip off the audience's emotional stability when these beautiful young sisters and brothers sang "Reach Out And Touch" and other carefully selected hymns, to introduce the program.

However, after listening to Chris Bennett, Publisher of the Medium and Larry Williams, Publisher of the Tacoma True

Citizens, give a brief history of the unsung hero, there should have been very little doubt why Seattle Mayor, Wes Uhlman proclaimed March 8th as "Black Community Day" in this fair city. Connie Bennett, editor of the Medium and Veltry Johnson, Station Manager of KYAC, introduced and gave a superb narrative of each nominee's contributions.

The Medium was also the recipient of a merits awards for their outstanding achievements and contributions to the Black community. The award was given by the Central Area Citizens Committee. Eddie Rye, Jr., Director of CAMP and Charles Mitchell, Director of the Center for Research and Services at Seattle University, presented the award to the Medium. Accepting the award was Priscilla W. Hailey, Associate Publisher for The Medium Newspaper.

Lee Davis, Editor - Manager of the Tacoma True Citizen, introduced the judges.

The keynote speaker for the ceremony was the distinguished Benjamin Hooks, first Black member of the Federal Communications Commission.

A fiery speaker, Mr. Hooks lashed out at the American

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system for not adhering to the policies of the "Declaration Of Independence", forfeiting their rights to keep Black people under their chain of commands. "We must confess openly and honestly that this nation has not lived up to its promise", he said. And, with this, he reminded the predominantly Black audience that 1976 would be a successful year for Black Americans.

Mr. Hooks, a highly vocal and commanding speaker, received a standing ovation when he further cited that only through a cohesive and conscientious effort of Black people, using the pen rather than the bullet, will we be able to demand freedom banning all versions of slavery in a land where many of our forefathers have contributed to its development and wealth. America is our home.

The ceremony, in its entirety, has to be one of the most highly visible and genuine work of Black representation, one which all, unheard of, unthought of and unseen, can truly be proud of and appreciate.