

THE MEDIUM

a message from the people...to the people

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MERIT AWARDS WILL BE PRESENTED FRIDAY

The Medium's first annual Black Community Merit Awards will be held Friday, Feb. 2, announced Christopher Bennett, Publisher of the Medium Newspaper.

Representatives from the community have been invited to speak at the awards ceremony which will honor those persons whose achievements have not received public recognition, said Bennett. "The awards ceremony is in conjunction with our third anniversary," he said.

The presentation will be held at the Heritage House following a dinner in honor of those nominated to receive the awards. The dinner will begin at 6:30 p.m. A dance which will feature Jonah's Whale, a Tacoma Band, will follow the presentation ceremonies.

Two awards will be given and each person nominated will receive a certificate of

achievement.

The winner of the Martin Luther King and Mahalia Jackson awards will be selected by a panel of seven judges who were selected from various segments of the community. They will use the following criteria to select the person most deserving of the two awards:

1. The amount of time the person spent working in the community,
2. The impact he made on any segment of the community, and
3. The number and type of work and achievements that has gone without public notice.

Former Superior Court Judge Charles Z. Smith will host the awards presentations.

For ticket information please contact Ms. Kora Vann or Ms. Pat Wright, The Medium Newspaper, 2600 S. Jackson, 323-3070.

OEO to undergo major overhaul

WASHINGTON (NBNS)--Informed Administration sources said this week that the Office of Economic Opportunity will be dismantled and its components will be doled out among other agencies, according to news accounts.

It has been speculated that the bulk of OEO programs -- which comprised LBJ's "war on poverty" -- will go to the Department of Health, Education and Welfare. Namely, anti-poverty programs dealing with education, child development, hygiene, mental health, policy research and Indians would come under the auspices of HEW, while administrative support and research and development funds would be transferred to the General Services Administration.

Community action programs would possibly be taken over by local and state governments with an inducement from the federal government of added revenue sharing funds.

OEO's controversial legal services program would also be caught in the transition. Some sources believe this issue will cause the greatest conflict between the Nixon administration and the Democratic Congress since the President has unsuccessfully pushed for a separate legal services corporation last year.

Administration officials said, however, that dismantling OEO may prod Congress into approving such a corporation during this session. (The proposal had been rejected earlier because all appointments to the corporation would be made by the President and such a move would impose unnecessary restrictions upon attorneys representing low-income persons).

However, if the alternative is no legal services for the poor, it is believed that would approve legislation calling for such a corporation.



Ronnie Hall received an award at the CAYA annual banquet. Ronnie is shown with his parents Mr. and Mrs. Hall. For additional details and more pictures see pages 20 and 21.

CASC ANNOUNCES RECALL, LEVY POSITION

The Central Area School Council urges all residents of the Central Area and of the Seattle community as a whole to vote YES for the special Levy and AGAINST the Recall of Alfred Cowles, Phillip Swain, Beverly Smith and David Wagoner.

The charges against the four School Board members are in our opinion, "trumped up" and ridiculous and the Council is concerned with the potential disruption of the operation of our schools a change in Board structure will cause at this point.

This is especially important to us because Al Cowles, the only Black member of the School Board, is being singled out as one of the villains by the Citizens Against Mandatory Bussing (CAMB). The loss of his voice on

the School Board will deny the Black and Minority community one of its most sensitive advocates. We are also disturbed by the "hidden agenda" that CAMB is using to mobilize people against the School Board and the Superintendent. They are playing on the highly emotional issue of bussing to appeal to the fears and apprehensions of White middle-class America. The CASC believes that it has the responsibility to point out and struggle against any attempts by groups like CAMB to perpetuate ill feelings between Blacks and Whites.

"Race Mixing" is undoubtedly the threat and single root issue behind the current "whispering campaign" in progress by proponents of CAMB.

Levy Position:
In considering our posi-

tion to support the School Levy, we estimate that the Central Area could and will lose 25% of its state support if the Levy fails. While we are not confident that the 33 million dollar plus levy amount is adequate to support the innovative educational programs our children need, the loss of the Levy would be a disaster for our schools. This, in addition to expected cutbacks in federal monies, would have a detrimental effect upon the Central Region. If the levy fails, we can only expect a return to the inadequate and neglectful educational standards of the past -- and it is our children who will suffer.

Again, we urge you to support the Council's position and vote AGAINST the recall and YES on the Levy.

DESEGREGATION PLAN GETS GO-AHEAD

The South Region Advisory Council of Seattle Public Schools Thursday night voted unanimously to go ahead with naming a citizens advisory committee for a Title VII desegregation program.

The six advisory councils in the South Region will be invited to submit names of residents for the citizens advisory committee by Feb. 7. Each advisory council may name up to three members on the

advisory committee.

Persons interested in serving on the advisory committee may contact the chairman of their advisory council or telephone the District's South Region office at 587-3400.

Guidelines will be observed for minority group and parent participation on the advisory committee. Information about the guidelines may be obtained from the South Region office.

Title VII is a federal program for promoting desegregation. It provides money for curriculum development and special programs.

The Seattle School Board invited the South Region Council to participate in preparing a proposal for federal funding of desegregation. Citizen and staff teams will develop details of the program and submit it to the District administration by April 1.