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Cell Talk

By Asmar Abdul Seifullah
aka Joe West #40404

The first annual "Grassroots Community Service Awards" ceremony was held February 20, 1981 at the Oregon State Penitentiary. The event was co-sponsored by Uhuru Organization and the American Muslim Mission - OSP

Chapter. Additional support was given by the Portland Urban League, without its support the event wouldn't have been a success.

The theme of the ceremony was "Community Solidarity," which was strongly exhibited throughout

the meeting. The concept behind the awards was to focus attention on those people within the community who ordinarily go unrecognized. The persons who received awards represent only a small group of the many people who are making meaningful contributions to the health and welfare of the community.

Complete list of Grassroot Community Service Award recipients 1980-81.

- Mrs. Rosemary Allen - for outstanding achievement in the Arts during 1980.
- Mr. Vernon Chatman - for outstanding and enduring achievement in assisting high school children with future careers.
- Ms. Gloria Fisher - for outstanding and enduring achievement in community news service.
- Ms. Rosemary Anderson - for her dedication in employment training.
- Mr. Bernard Foster - for outstanding achievement in community news service.
- Reverend John Garlington - for the most significant and enduring achievement by a minister or layman.
- Ms. LaVera Smith - for outstanding and unselfish achievement in support of senior citizens.
- Eman Makail Shabazz - for the most outstanding example of moral excellence and community concern.
- Ms. Rose Booth - for implementation of the only alcohol treatment program that services the Black community.
- The Black Educational Center - for inspirational contribution in education and for maintaining cultural and ethnic identity through education.

Two special services awards were presented: *The Yero* (Warrior) Award went to Mr. Ron Herndon of the Black United Front, for his consistency in confronting discrimination and racism within the system. Brother Ron Herndon is in no light sense of the word a warrior in full battle dress.

The *Adero* (Life Giver) Award went to Ms. Freddy Petett for

strong and warming dedication to the struggle for freedom, justice and equality. Her contribution to the community is inspiring in the image of Black womanhood.

The night will be long remembered by all present. There was a warming feeling of brotherhood throughout the evening. The juju vibes penetrated the crust of negroism and transformed itself into chants of Allah u Akbar and Uhuru SaSa! Never have we witnessed such a display of Black love as was shown during the ceremony.

The brothers here are still talking about the evening and I'm sure the recipients of the awards had their minds changed about Black prisoners. The embilical cord between the outer community and the inner community of OSP was strengthened in no uncertain terms. Community Solidarity was realized in a short two hour span of time and all the lies about apathetic in a short two hour span of time.

The keynote speaker of the evening was Eman Makail Shabazz of Masjid No. 62, Portland, Oregon. His message and call for solidarity was enthusiastically received as he gave clear answers to disturbing questions. He centralized his address on the Atlanta murders of 20 Black children and called for a national drive to end this despicable display of genocide against Black children. From an observer viewpoint, I can only say that the Eman was right on the money and his address fell on open ears.

The most significant aspect of the meeting was the clear evidence given to the fact that the Black community is very much alive and well. That there are members of the community who are concerned and who are working toward the realization of Uhuru (Freedom).

May almighty God bless and protect the Black community and may he guide us all to the straight path. Once again I salute the recipients of the first annual "Grassroots Community Service Awards" and may they continue to work in constructive ways.

Ask Aunt Bea

Aunt Bea:
My name is Jim. I'm 16 and I have a younger sister who is always trying to find out my business; what I'm doing, where I am going, and who I'm talking to on the telephone. All of this bugs me, especially when someone calls for me and Cindy (my sister) answers the phone. She says "Who is this" almost before saying hello. I think this is very rude of my sister. What do you think?
Jim R.
N. Portland

Dear Aunt Bea:
There is this couple I know quite well, who lives together (not married) and are expecting a baby soon. I'm not sure if a shower will be given, or if it's proper, which brings up my question: Should I offer to give a shower, or at least a gift?
I know what's proper for a married mother to be, but what about a non-married mother to be?
Kay
NE Portland

Dear Jim:
"Who is this" on Cindy's part may be a little rude, and I'm sure nosy as younger sisters and brothers are at times. Perhaps "May I say who's calling" might sound better. But on the other hand, callers are most considerate to introduce themselves before asking for their party. So you and Cindy should work things out so nobody's bugged.
Aunt Bea


Dear Kay:
Baby showers and gifts are given for babies to be, not ill-legitimate mothers to be, so I would think that both shower and gift are most proper in any case.
Congratulations to your friend.
Aunt Bea

Send your questions to: Aunt Bea,
Box 3137, Portland, OR 97208

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