



THARA

By Lanita Duke

Grassroot News, N.W. - An event will happen this Saturday, May 2nd, that is historical; the Creative Jazz Orchestra, under the direction of Thara Memory, will be in concert at the Civic Auditorium. Under the management of One World Arts, this musical history will reflect the works of American and Afro-American composers.

Thara Memory is the catalyst of the *Creative Jazz Orchestra* and the only way to describe him is to call him a personality with a "community spirit." "I wanted to try and help revise the community culturally. One person can't do it. So I fit, so that everytime someone points to me to do something, I make sure it spreads out," said Thara. This sentiment was reflected in his work with the Portland Black Repertory Theatre.

Thara has paid his dues in the Northeast and remains extremely independent. He has popped up here and there, backstage as well as front stage as a talented horn blower of first rate. He has seen the inside of the recording business via of his studio work, and knows they will do anything to bring about "number one with a bullet." This doggie-dog business turns Thara off which is why he centered his talents in the Northwest. "The record industry would have died had it not been for Afro-American music. Disco went up and reached its peak. Now you can't get a major record company to record a disco disc even if you fronted the money. Now ask them about a new James Brown or Marvin Gaye, and their response will be when do we start? You see, its the little blocks of sales that keep the record companies going," he continued. He sees most big stars in music as having no control over their product. "If I even got hold of any of that I would send half the props back, half the lights, and half the people who run it, and ask for my money back. These things are big business and I think maybe it's even bigger than the concert itself."

Using his experience to retain his perspective, Thara summed it up. "I'm talking about having your own. If it's just ten dollars - so what? It's yours! I'm not going to look any different on stage making ten dollars or ten thousands. And making ten grand, the sad thing would be, to take home only \$100 of that. Big business will only do two things for you; put you out of business or let you support their business."

Thara's analysis of certain procedures by some big name record company is essentially correct. We in the Northwest should be proud that this new breed of artist picked our home as his base. On May 2nd, let's show our appreciation.



(Photo: Richard Brown)

Educator recommends basics

An expert on the educationally disadvantaged and minority students told Portland Community College teachers last week "to move back to basic education."

"Increasingly the students are saying give me what I need and what I need is to learn how to read better and how to learn how to write better," Dr. William Moore, Jr., professor of educational administration at Ohio State University, told the gathering of PCC faculty and administrators at one-day PCC conference on the educationally disadvantaged student.

Moore was in administration and education at Seattle Central Community College before moving to Ohio.

"Listen to what students are saying and what they are saying is do not let me do my own thing," Moore said. "The me-ism is dead. Doing your own thing was good for the ego but poor for the mind. Sit in the barrios and talk to them. Sit in the barrios and talk to them. What you'll find is that doing your own thing isn't what they want. They want to learn how to read. They want to be able to write. They want to be able to figure."

Moore said that students need structure in the community college classroom with teachers who clearly let students know what is expected of them from the first day of class to the end of the term.

"I'm against all of these options," Moore said. "What he needs to do is learn to read because he can't read, to learn to write because he can't write and learn to figure because he can't figure. That's an old fashioned idea. But that's exactly what I mean."

Moore said teachers should not be overly sympathetic to student complaints of relevancy of a course.

"Don't let those students tell you what's relevant and what's not relevant," Moore said. "That's fine in sociology and philosophy, but that's not fine in mathematics."



Dr. William Moore, Jr., told Portland Community College teachers that it is time to go back to basics when teaching the educationally disadvantaged. Moore is a professor of educational administration at Ohio State University.

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Moore said students still respect

faculty. "They still view you in higher esteem than you think they do."

Moore suggested these changes in approach to educating the disadvantaged student:

- Less time spent in adverse interaction between faculty and administrators. Realize both faculty and administrators are after the same things.
- Better marketing of what we are doing in education.
- Innovations that are concrete. The most innovative thing an English teacher can do is teach students what a verb is.
- More counseling by the faculty, and less by counselors who are removed from the classroom situations.
- Offer a product which is as good as our claims.
- Give more time to students.

Moore said in a question and answer session following his talk that he is not talking about becoming unreasonably tough in the classroom.

"Be tough with the youngsters, but be tough with love," Moore said. "It's like being tough with your own children. You are tough because you love them."

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