

Seattle-ites protest MLK delay

by Ruben Rangel

SEATTLE—It was justice they were seeking as 200 men, women and children took a few "steps down freedom road" by placing temporary bumpersticker signs on Empire Way street signs which read simply Martin Luther King, Jr.

Impatient over the delay in carrying out Seattle Ordinance 110692, which would re-name a six-mile boulevard that runs from the central district to south Seattle, a predominantly working class, multiracial community, people rallied at Franklin High School Nov. 19 and took steps to re-name the avenue themselves.

Umbrellas were poised over street sign poles to dry off the rain as small groups went block by block with stickers printed by the Aug. 27 Committee for Jobs, Peace and Freedom.

A committee spokesperson said, "It is shameful and inexcusable that the mayor and the city council can pass an ordinance... more than a year ago and at this late date still no actual signs are up."

It was with a sense of duty to honor the great civil rights leader that



At a march earlier this year, Seattle residents put pressure on the City Council to change the name of Empire Way to Martin Luther King Jr. Way. (Photo: Jose Alvear)

Chicanos, peace activists, Blacks, Asians and others braved the rain and cold to carry out the law of the city.

The first of the 500 new signs was pasted up by City Council member Sam Smith, who was recently re-elected in the Nov. 8 election.

The signs had no directional or street designation, though the official permanent signs will read: "Martin Luther King Jr. Way," and many will indicate "south." But the community did not want the temporary stickers to be a substitute for the city's task.

Sources have learned that a special police unit was systematically taking the adhesive signs down following the protest. A few key sticker-signs remain in place at major intersections but a plainclothes officer was seen with a ladder taking the new signs down. When confronted by local residents, the officer identified himself and began to question a resident, who was released after a license plate check.

Opposition to the name change has come from a few merchants on Empire Way who have appealed a King County Superior Court ruling that the change was legal. The State Supreme Court is expected to rule on the case in December.

One peace activist who recently returned from Europe said, "I was impressed that so many cities have honored Dr. King's work. When I was in Eljore, France, I saw a street named after Martin Luther King, Jr. I felt at peace. I began to cry."

Portland jazz great dies

Saxophonist Sonny King, 52, died Friday of a heart condition. Raised in Oakland, King studied music from age seven. At seventeen he took to the road, playing with many jazz greats. In addition to studying psychology, he studied music with Pharoah Sanders, Marion Brown, Clifford Thornton and others. His travels included Africa, South America, Asia and Europe.

King taught in the Lane County School District, then moved to Portland in 1979. In addition to playing at local night spots he taught woodwinds at Jefferson High School and in elementary and middle schools.

A memorial service was held at Emmanuel Temple on Thursday. A musical tribute will be held Sunday night, 5:00 p.m., at Jazz Quarry, where he played every Wednesday

night. Memorial contributions should go to the Sonny King Fund, Oregon Community Foundation, 522 SW 5th Ave., Portland, OR 97204.

Winterhawks free!

People who bring two cans of food to the Portland Winterhawks' December 14 game against the Kamloops Oilers will receive free admission—and the warm feeling of knowing they helped The Salvation Army.

The game, which starts at 7:00 p.m. in the Memorial Coliseum, is the Winterhawks' annual "Salvation Army night."

Senior citizens invited to free Christmas dinner

Four hundred senior citizens are expected to join in The Salvation Army's Rose Center Christmas meal, Friday, December 16, at noon.

The holiday meal will take place The Rose Center, 1785 N.E. Sandy Blvd., on the second floor. Donations will be taken to cover costs.

Reservations are required, and will be accepted through December 13.

The menu includes a choice of roast beef or ham, potatoes, yams, green beans, pear salad, rolls, home-made cookies and coffee and tea.

Entertainment is by the "Colors of Christmas" ensemble, led by Captain William Hunter of The Salvation Army.

For more information call Rose Center Director Pauline Ligness at 234-0696.



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