

# Obama and King: Nobel Prize Winners

Prestigious honors come 35 years apart

BY JAKE THOMAS  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

When President Barack Obama stood before a crowd in Norway to accept the Nobel Peace Prize last month, he made a point of acknowledging that Martin Luther King Jr.'s work

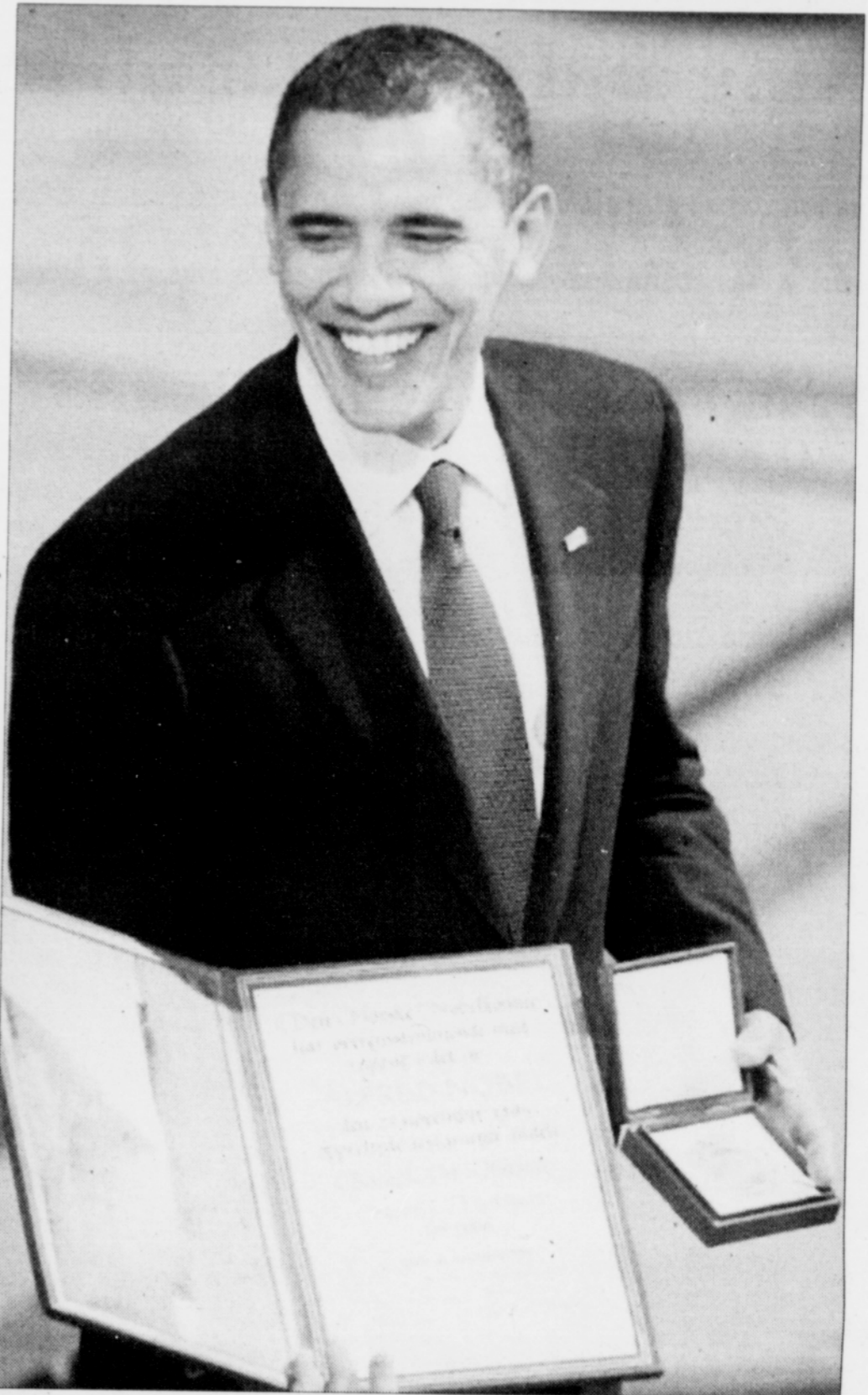
have included the founder of the Red Cross, U.S. presidents, peace activists, and a slew of now obscure diplomats and statesman who worked tirelessly for world peace.

But it also includes more controversial figures, like former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger who won the award in 1973 after illegally carpet-bombed Cambodia causing the deaths of maybe 800,000 civilians.

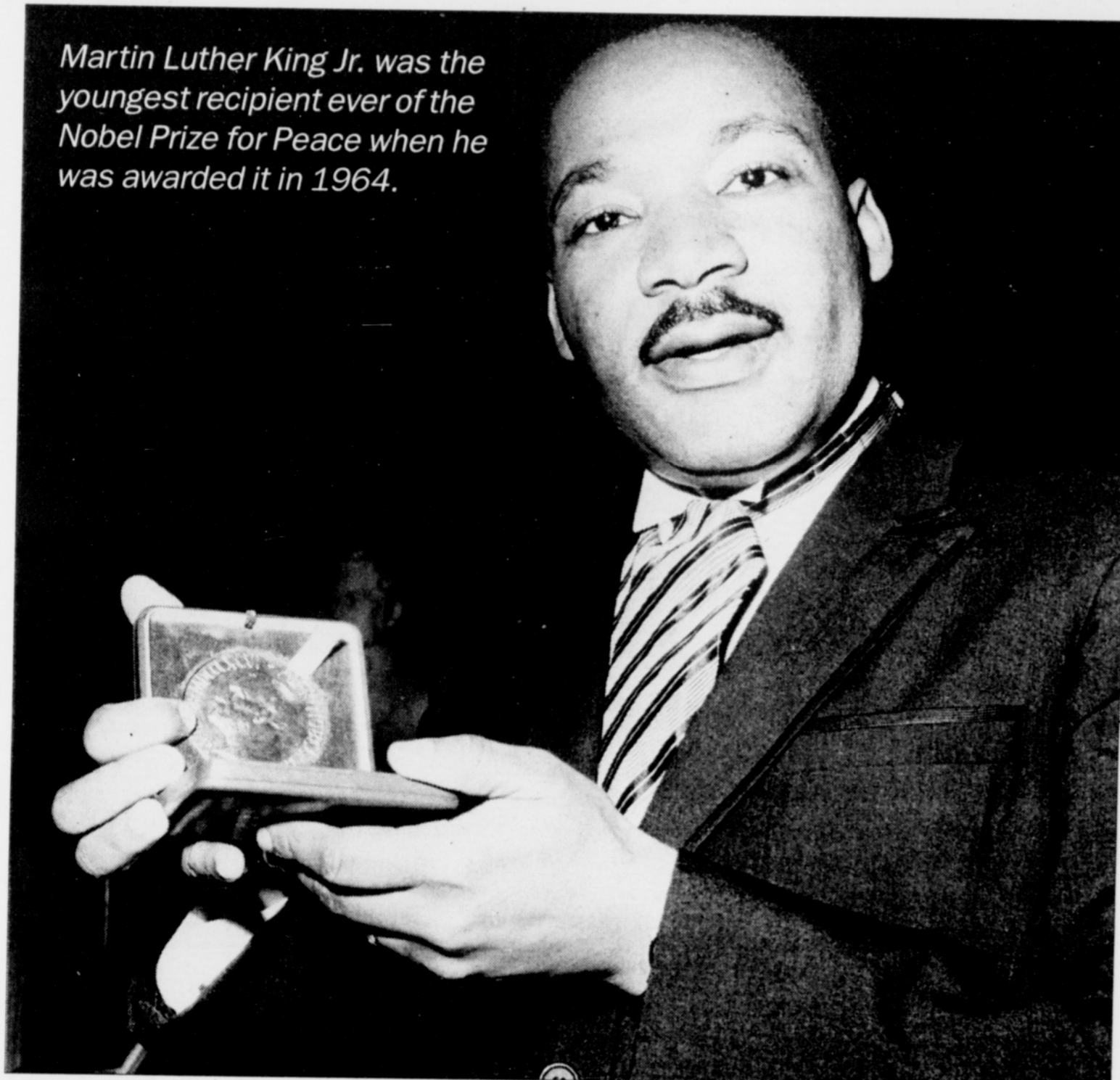
When Obama was elected to the nation's top post, he reset the U.S.'s image to a world that had grown wary of a nation that was perceived as arrogant and dismissive of the concerns of other countries.

The Nobel Peace Prize Committee had this to say about giving Obama the award:

"Thanks to Obama's initiative, the USA is now playing a more constructive role in meeting the great climatic challenges



When Barack Obama received the Noble Prize for Peace last month, he acknowledged that Martin Luther King Jr. paved the way for his historic accomplishment as the first black president.



Martin Luther King Jr. was the youngest recipient ever of the Nobel Prize for Peace when he was awarded it in 1964.

the world is confronting. Democracy and human rights are to be strengthened. Only very rarely has a person to the same extent as Obama captured the world's attention and given its

people hope for a better future." But shortly after the announcement, critics bitterly denounced the committee's decision, asserting

*continued* ▼ on page 17

paved the way for the young president's historic rise.

Thirty five years earlier, King was also in Norway to accept the exact same prize that Obama recently received. Both men became part of a long line of statesmen and activists that a committee selected by the Norwegian Parliament deemed to "have done the most or the best work for fraternity between nations, for the abolition or reduction of standing armies and for the holding and promotion of peace congresses."

But despite the crisp criteria of who should receive the prize, which Swedish chemist Alfred Nobel laid out in his will, it's not clear what it means to receive the Nobel Peace Prize.

Past recipients of the award



## Providence Montessori School Educating your child for life

Join us at an open house.

- Saturday, Jan. 23, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Current openings for ages 2½ to 9
- Tuition assistance available

4911 NE Couch St., Portland, OR 97213 • 503-215-2409

[www.providence.org/montessori](http://www.providence.org/montessori)

**PROVIDENCE**  
Montessori School

Providence Montessori School does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, or national or ethnic origin in the administration of its policies and programs.