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Notes

Editorial Staff

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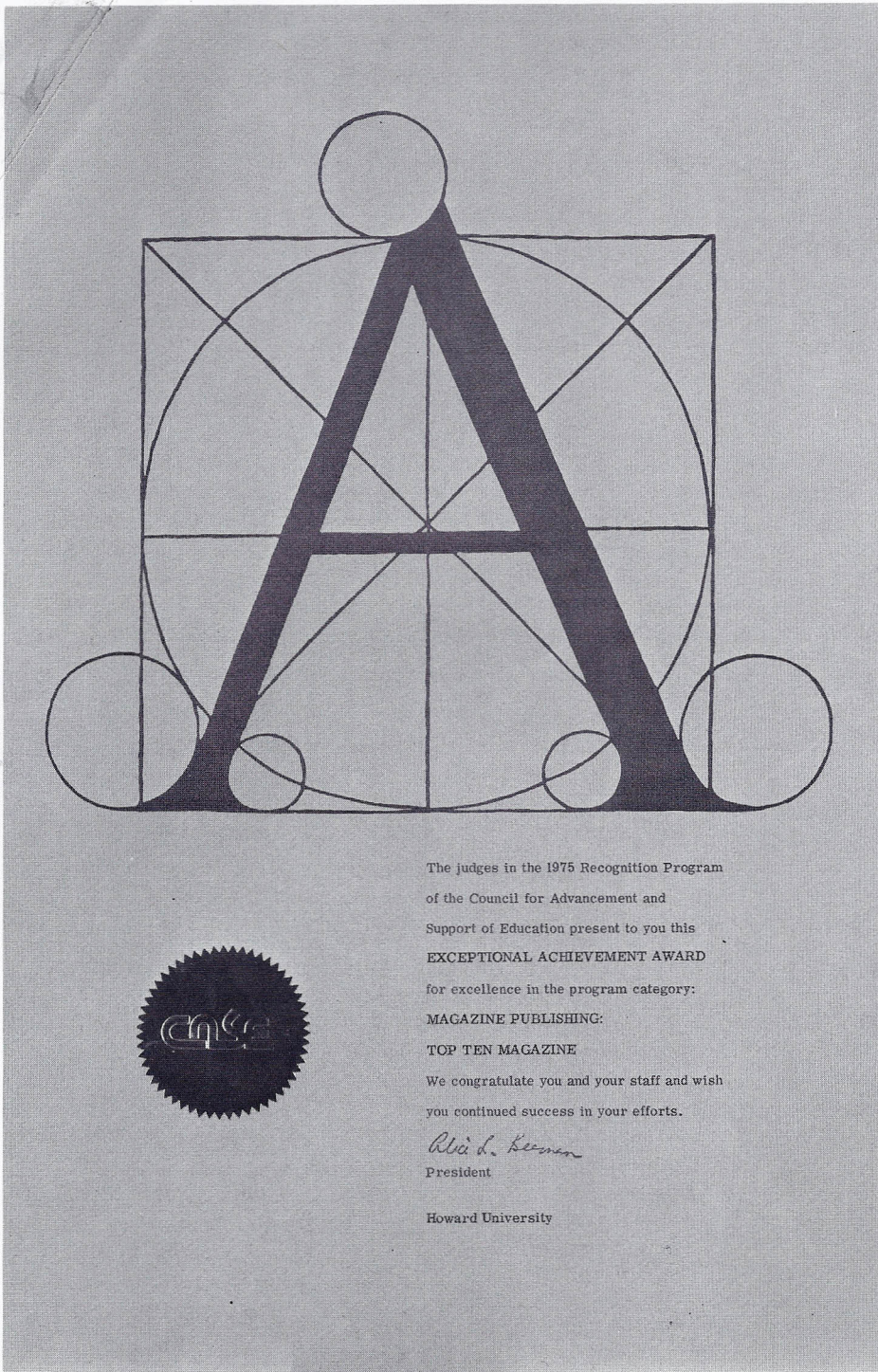
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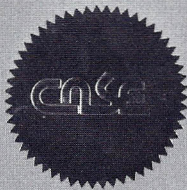
From the Editors Notebook

It takes a reader to appreciate good writing; a professional to judge the achievement of another professional. And in the judgment of the Council for Advancement and Support of Education, *New Directions* is one of the "TOP TEN" magazines in the nation. Below is a reproduction of a citation presented to the editor.

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The judges in the 1975 Recognition Program of the Council for Advancement and Support of Education present to you this **EXCEPTIONAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD** for excellence in the program category: **MAGAZINE PUBLISHING: TOP TEN MAGAZINE**



We congratulate you and your staff and wish you continued success in your efforts.

Alvin L. Keenan
President

Howard University

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Black Nationalism

First, I want to thank you for your excellent publication which I read as soon as it arrives.

Secondly, I want to plead for a measure of understanding of those few whites who understand and identify with the ideals of Black nationalism, freedom, and equality. Because to do so without hypocrisy (if that is indeed possible) is to incur the hatred of most other whites and suspicion of many Blacks as well. It can be a lonely road.

Dr. Chancellor Williams in "The Destruction of Black Civilization," reviewed in your April issue, states: "The whites are the implacable foe and everlasting enemy of the Blacks," and that Blacks must fully realize that "the white man is their bitter enemy." I cannot disagree with these statements either racially or historically, but only plead for Blacks to look at individuals who may be valuable exceptions to this historical and racial truism. Look at us with suspicion, if you will, but as objectively as possible.

Because, there are some whites who are as sickened by the hypocrisy, criminality, and inequality of contemporary society as you are . . . some of us that have no stomach left for the bland conformity and institutionalized repression of white society. And there are some who realize the distinction John Henrik Clarke points out between Christianity and Christendom, the latter a "political instrument." True Christianity, like Christ, is totally pacifistic, nonviolent, nonexhibitive, and as such totally incompatible with a capitalistic society. But to believe such is "unAmerican"!

I further agree with Clarke that socialism is the answer, but not by itself. To be fully successful (as much as any human institution can be) it must be tempered by a dedicated pacifism and humanism. In this nuclear age, there really is no longer any alternative to that.

Alfred James III
Petroleum Geologist
Wichita, Kansas

A True Reflection

For the first time, I have received a true reflection of *New Directions*. It was a pure delight to read the April 1975 issue.

To say that the whole issue was thought-provoking would be an understatement. Many changes have prevailed at Howard University since my day and I often have nostalgic memories, from time to time, that urge me to "go and see if you will."

The realities of Black history, the eternal truth and the destruction of myths are all just as relevant now as then and the university has made a significant impact on these three issues.

When we stop and reflect upon the terrible arrow of time—*New Directions* will be the past, the present and the future.

John L. Mason
Assistant Professor
Civil Engineering Technology
Savannah State College
Savannah, Georgia

Dr. Leon Wright

I was delighted to read about my friend and former teacher, Dr. Leon Wright, in the April 1975 *New Directions*.

Dr. Wright has been an inspiration and a guiding influence in my life during the 20 years since I was a student at the School of Religion.

Ernest J. Newborn
Associate Minister
The Christian Church in Missouri
Jefferson City, Mo.

Another View

Though being a white American, I have alienated myself many times from some of my friends and many of my relatives because of the support I give to the causes of Black Americans.

For over two decades I have condemned generalizations of the Black community and I must also condemn *New Directions* for the generalizations of the white community. Evaluate the April issue through "a white man's eyes" and you will understand my disappointment.

Melvyn G. Bleeker
Minneapolis, Minn.

Please send all correspondence to: New Directions,
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Letters