

San Francisco Chronicle

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Thursday, March 29, 2007

Generous Nobel

Editor -- Regarding "A noble Nobel" (Editorial, March 26): Thank you for drawing our attention to professor George Smoot's generous act of channeling his Nobel Prize money through the East Bay Community Foundation to nonprofit organizations that address poverty in the Bay Area.

This is similar to what Bangladeshi Nobel Peace laureate Muhammad Yunus has done since 1974 with his innovative lending of small amounts of money to poor women to give them a hand up out of poverty (microfinance). His Grameen Bank has a repayment rate that the commercial banks can envy.

Yunus is also donating all his 2006 Peace Prize money to purely social business enterprises, i.e. not-for-profit organizations in Bangladesh. It is so uplifting to read of people achieving so much while remembering those less accomplished.

LARRY DONOHUE

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