—Monumental health plan

Continued from page 1

minority private operation, because they compete in the effort to give good service at lower costs," said Chissell.

However, O'Rourke said that minority-owned health maintenance organizations are a priority for his office.

"We would like to see them succeed," he said. "Monumental was a high priority for us and we'd like to fund them but based on their financial situation I don't think it's a worthwhile investment."

However, Chissell reported, "We categorically deny any mismanagement of funds. MHP has been repeatedly audited by our own firm, Peat, Marwick and Mitchell, state auditors insurance commission auditors, OH-MO auditors and no one has ever suggested any hint of mismanagement."

Dr. Larry Pipes, director of the nine-year-old minority health maintenance organization, Compare - Care Inc. in Los Angeles said his organization has gone through several kinds of problems similar to Monumental.

"The federal government underfunds and over regulates health maintenance organizations so that it makes it very difficult to succeed. This is even magnified when they deal with minorities," said Pipes.

Then he said, "The federal government almost requires us to prove that we can compete with already established health plans before we get their help.

"It is a circular argument, a kind of Catch No. 22. I don't think they have a commitment to minority HMOs."

Compre-Care Inc. has been operating in Southern California since 1973 and has nearly 14,000 people enrolled in the plan.

Officials at Monumental plan to appeal O'Rourke's decision to the cut off federal funds to Health and Human Services Secretary Patricia Harris who could overturn this week's decision.

However, Harris a member of the Carter administration only has a few remaining days to make such a decision.

—MLK day

Continued from page 1

Americans over the dallying of Congress to make Dr. King's birthday a national holiday.

Buses will be leaving from Memorial Stadium, Mondawmin Shopping Center-pink lot, Local 2609 USWA at 550 Dundalk Avenue, Odell's, The New Ritz, D'Joint Restaurant, on Liberty Heights Avenue, radio station WEBB, and radio station WWIN.

The Steelworkers of America have formed a special committee in

the city as well, and have set up points for tickets to be picked

up as well as those spots designated by Newby.

Newby explained that groups such as the steelworkers have expr ssed a desire to "do their part" in commemorating Dr. King. Because e many city residents will be many of the employees of the Steelworkers will, be unable to attend the rally themselves, they feel their contributions in terms of time and dedication are crucial, Newby said.

Nationwide, several commemorative rallies have been set, but one which has taken on particular interest will take place in Buffalo, New York.

Eight black men have been murdered in that northeastern city apparently racially motivated. Local Nazis have scheduled a "white power" rally on Jan. 15, and have drawn heavy criticism for their praise of the murders and their promise to "create an atmosphere of racism and hate."

A Baltimore contingent plans to attend that rally the AFRO learned. Spokespersons for the organizing committee for that rally have said that it would be a "further green light to all forms of racist violence across the country" to allow the Nazi group to rally without a simultaneous counter-rally in support of Dr. King.

Groups including the National Anti-Klan Network, the Black Communications Network, and Rep. John Conyers have pledged their support for the Buffalo rally.

Other city groups plan services

Aside from the economic boycott and march in Washington, churches and community groups have planned a host of commemorative services next week.

"My Soul Looks Back and Wonders", sponsored by St. Cecelia's St. Edward's and St. James and St. John Roman Catholic churches will be held Thursday evening, Jan. 15, at 7:30 p.m. at St. Edward's church, 901 Poplar Grove St.

Father Maurice-Blackwell will be the main speaker for that service, and explained that it is being held to serve the needs of those city residents who will be unable to travel to Washington.

The Park Heights Community Corporation will hold its third annual candlelight memorial at the Dr. Martin Luther King Elementary School, 3600 Greenspring Avenue. People who attend are asked to bring a candle with them.

On Wednesday evening, Jan. 14, a forum will be held at the New Frontiers of Faith Baptist Church, Alameda and Beaumont. Rev. P.M. Smith will lead the forum, entitled, "Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., His message ," and an all night prayer vigil will be held afterwards.

On Thursday, Jan. 15, an outdoor rally will be held in front of the Calvert Educational Center, located on W. North Avenue. A "Celebration for King" will be held at the St. Mark's Methodist Church, Garrison and Liberty Heights, from 7:00p.m. until 9:00 p.m.

Special services will also be held at the main branch of the Enoch Pratt Free Library, Cathedral and Mulberry Sts., on Sunday, Jan. 11.

—Hampden neighborhood

Continued from page 1

danger that reminds us all that the struggle is hardly over.

Tell Rufus Snow, a 42-year-old city resident, that the days of mob violence are over. Snow lost an eye last summer after he was attacked in Hampden by a group of white youths who told him he was in the wrong neighborhood.

Tell James Bradshear that whites no longer gather in rabid packs like dogs to assault blacks foolish enough to trespass on "their turf."

Bradshear and two friends were pulled from a car and nearly beaten to death by a white mob last summer.

And tell state trooper Frazier West that the whites that surrounded him last week were merely part of Hampden's welcome wagon.

Isolated incidents? Hardly. Ask any black who has been through the area, and they will tell you tales of community stranded in a limbo of post - reconstruction dogma and hatred.

Leave the covert racism and subtle, prejudiced remarks in the downtown boardrooms and offices.

But for genuine, old-fashioned mob violence, complete with everything but the sheets, go hang out to use the term loosely in Hampden.

If your skin is black, someone up there will be only too quick to tell you so, and not in the best of terms.

Behold the Woman

Continued from page 1

land from the city to the planning center committee.

"Behold the Woman" has been the name given to an ecumenical gathering of women at the Convention Center next week-end. Over 9,000 women are so-far scheduled to attend, which will feature a university offering credit for theological courses, workshops, entertainment, and guest speakers, including Mrs. Viola Burnham, wife of the newly-elected president of Guyana, and the Rev. Willie Barrow, of Operation PUSH.

The event is being sponsored by the Bethel AME Church Missionary Society. Bethel, one of the largest and most historic churches in the city, is pastored by the Rev. John R. Bryant, and has a current membership of over 4,000.

But the bigger reason behind the convention, according to Behold Committee members, is to begin raising the necessary funds which will be required to build the cost-free women's center.

Mrs. Cecelia Williams Bryant, supervisor of the Bethel AME Church Missionary Society, said the center is part of a vision she has for the betterment of women, internationally.

The center in Baltimore is just the first step towards the realization of the dream.

The center will feature a chapel, a buffeteria, a theater, counseling and diagnostic areas, and a limited amount of residential space.

It will eventually be operated on a 24-hour basis.

According to Mrs. Bryant, the purpose of the center will be to address the total needs of women, regardless of their race or economic status.

But the biggest thrust of the center, she said, will be to provide a place of dignity and rest especially to women who for any number of reasons have not been able to do so up to this point.

In an interview, Mrs. Bryant explained that women have very special needs, and sometimes need a place just to hide and to think.

The center, she said, will give them that opportunity.

There have been no projections for the actual starting date of construction of the center at this point, but Behold representatives s say the time is "not too far off."

Apparently, the biggest need at this point is to finalize the legal and bureaucratic arrangements with the city.

Excitement is building up throughout the city for the Behold the Woman Convention.

It will officially open Friday evening, January 16th, with a devotions service at 7:30 p.m. and the opening service harambee at 8:00 p.m.

Dr. Hershell Challenor, of UNESCO, will be the main speaker, and the African Roots of Jazz will perform.

On Saturday, "The Night Belongs to Moses" will be presented, featuring Atlanta actress Saundra Dunson Franks (see AFRO story, Showtime) and Baltimore vocalist Katie Jackson.

The first lady of Guyana, Mrs. Viola Burnham, will be the main speaker.

Admission for the Saturday evening event will be $25.

Sunday morning will first be marked by skill workshops at 9:30 a.m. followed by an 11:00 a.m. worship service, at which Rev. Willie Barrow of PUSH will preach.

Committee members told the AFRO this week that although many of the events have a fee attached, some activities will be offered free of charge, and that all women are urged to attend.

—GAO report

Continued from page 1

While reducing unemployment, the program implementors felt, more and more young people would extend their educations to guarantee a greater chance of not being unemployed in the future.

As part of the agreement for participating in the program, each youth was required to give the job 80 percent attendance and he was not allowed to have less than an 80 percent attendance record at his respective school.

In addition, participating students were required to maintain a satisfactory grade point average in his studies.

Despite the apparent good intentions on paper, however, government researchers from GAO have found many problems inherent within the system, including too many youths assigned for the amount of work available, "too many youths not adhering to time and attendance procedures, too many job assignments that actually have marginal value to the employer, participant or community, a lack of supervision of work-hour rules, allowing youth to be paid for absences, and an abundance of unqualified supervisors.

In addition, the researchers found that in Baltimore, while many of the worksites have been able to overcome some of the problems cited in the report, the city's system still suffers from an ineffective system largely due to paperwork.

A wire service report said that the GAO report found public service employees used for administration and work site monitoring to be "unqualified."

And, the wire service report said, despite three attempts to reorganize the Baltimore system since 1978, the city "still does not have an effective system."

Jim Walsh, one of the writers of the report, explained the report's recommendations, saying that GAO is in no way saying the program should be abolished but that further monies allocated to the program should be given cautiously until the management problems are corrected.

"Basically, a major part of the recommendation is that the program needs a little more work to be effective," he said. "You can't dump that much money into a program and expect it to work right away."

Walsh said that although the federal government had good intentions when the program was implemented, it might have been at least indirectly responsible for many of the country's economic woes.

He said that instead of correcting unemployment, the ineffectiveness of the program probably actually helped increase unemployment in many instances.

He stressed, however, that the GAO report is not intended to be a vehicle for eliminating the program altogether.

Steve Kaiser, public information officer for the Mayor's Office of Manpower Resources, said that he had not read the report at AFRO presstime, but that upon listening to many of the report's criticisms, he would have to disagree that it accurately reflects the situation as it exists in Baltimore.

"We did have some problems when the program was begun," he said, "but we corrected them and I'd have to say the program runs very well at this point."

Kaiser said that approximately 18,000 young people in the city have received jobs since the program was begun in 1978, and only 4,000 have dropped out.

He also said that over 4,000 young people received the initiative through the program to return to school.

As evidence of the city's effective management of the program, Kaiser said that Baltimore received the highest grant award of any American city last year.

But, said Kaiser, there is no way of knowing at this point how many people would actually be affected by a discontinuation of the program.

The effects of the report on the job situation in the city are independent from CETA job cuts announced earlier this week by city officials. Because of a federal budget cut of $7.5 million, over 1800 unemployed city residents will lose their chances of receiving public service jobs this year.

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—March of Dimes

Continued from page 1

Missy was awarded an honorary citizenship in Baltimore City by Mrs. Floraine Applefeld, a representative of the mayor's office.

The reception was held to honor media representatives and volunteers who have worked to make the Walk a success, said a spokesperson for the March of Dimes.

The Walk this year will take place on Sunday, May 3. For more information, call 752-7990.

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SEDATION ANESTHESIA

NAACP celebrates Jubilee Day

By James M. Abraham
AFRO Staff Writer

The new year got off to an auspicious start for the black community and the NAACP Sunday, as almost 1000 participants showed up at the Eutaw Place headquarters of the Prince Hall Masons to celebrate Jubilee-Passover day.

The enthusiastic crowd witnessed an exciting panoply of black leadership, as the ornately-garbed Masons, several of the community's most prominent clergymen, and a host of local politicians led the audience in the 2nd annual Baltimore celebration of the anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation.

The document, which took effect on the first day of 1863, freed all slaves residing in areas still fighting against the Union during the Civil War.

Rev. Vernon Dobson, Mason Grand Master Sam Daniels and Rep. Parren J. Mitchell, D-7, were among those who addressed the crowd.

According to Enolia McMillan, head of the Baltimore branch of the NAACP, over $7000 was raised as a result of the affair.

"It was an inspirational and financial success," said Mrs. MacMillan, who was quick to praise the efforts of the Prince Hall Masons and others who sponsored the program. Music for the program was provided by the combined choirs of Douglass Memorial Community Church, Douglas High School, and Union Baptist Church.

10 students to be honored at MLK banquet

Ten high school students, who "best typify the ideals of the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.," will be honored at the sixth annual Martin Luther King memorial breakfast, which will be held Jan. 15 at the Baltimore Convention Center.

According to spokespersons from the planning committee for the breakfast, the students will receive scholarships to help them with their college educations.

They will receive the scholarships at special ceremonies later in the year.

The Martin Luther King Memorial breakfasts were begun six years ago under the sponsorship of the YMCA. The event this year is being coponsored by the King's Landing Women's Club and the Jeffrey Fund, along with the YMCA.

The keynote speaker for the breakfast this year will be Ms. Patricia A. Russell, a Howard University Law School graduate. Ms. Russell is the Chief of the Complaints Branch of the Complaints and Compliance Division of the Broadcast Bureau of the Federal Communications Commission.

Entertainment will be provided by the Bowie State College choir.

Configuration sponsors Arena performance

The opening night theatre party for the Arena Players' performance "Wind Between the Houses" Friday, Jan. 9 will be a benefit fundraiser for Configuration Performing Arts Network, Inc.

Festivities for the evening will include a champagne reception before the show and a gala cast party honoring such stars of Arena Players history as Lorraine Brown, Nancy Barrick, Christine Moore and June Thorne at Gatsby's nightclub.

Tickets for the evening are $10 and proceeds will benefit Configuration Performing Arts Network, Inc., formerly the Baltimore Community Dance Center, a non-profit school that specializes in training for professional dancers.

Under the director Rose Dailey, the school has taken a new name and has added an innovative new thrust in programming that may well revolutionize the training process for career professional dancers.

"We will be researching, exploring, and refining a unique curriculum over the next year that focuses on dance movement from a scientific perspective through the use of basic principles of muscle physiology, kinesiology, anatomy, and nutrition as the essentials for body training and development," said Ms. Dailey.

The school is also in the stages of conducting a dance history research project about the significance of dance and music roots to the current black cultural experience.

Hospital strike draws to a close

After weeks of negotiations, agreements were finally reached between Union Local 1199E, the National Union of Hospital and Health Care Employees, and six city hospitals.

Maryland General Hospital was the last hospital to reach an agreement with the union, bringing to an end the long dispute that resulted in two hospitals going on strike and arousing public support from various factions in the city.

The two most disputed hospitals, Johns Hopkins and Sinai, came to agreements after much furor was raised over the union's health and welfare fund. Spokespersons for those hospitals contended that the rate of return of benefits to employees was not equal to the amount contributed by the hospitals. Negotiators for the two hospitals squawked at the original 10 percent contribution rate requested by the union, which was the primary reason for the strike actions.

A federal mediator was finally called in to help settle the dispute, resulting in a 9 percent contribution rate for Hopkins and an 8 percent rate for Sinai. Sinai however, is bound by that rate only if fund officials agree that the rate is sufficient for benefits to the employees.

If they do not find that to be the case, Sinai could end up paying a rate dictated by the union fund trustee board, which consists of 10 representatives from the hospitals and 10 from the union.

The other hospitals reached similar agreements. An 8 percent wage increase and a 9 percent contribution rate into the Fund was agreed upon by them all.

Although agreements have been reached, the case is far from over. Because of an action by the National Labor Relations Board, prompted by the refusal of Fund officials to turn over requested records to Sinai Hospital, a court case is pending in the 4th Circuit Court of Appeals, which could have an affect on the present agreement signed at that hospital or in negotiations which will take place in two years.

The case is due to be heard sometime in early spring.

The strike, which lasted 16 days, was the longest in the city's history.

Alford releases new album

Brenda Alford, a local songstress, has just released her first solo album on the Sugarplum label.

Sugarplum is a local company and the album was recorded in Baltimore at Morgan State College in June of 1980.

MiMi Frazier, Ms. Alford's manager, says that an initial solicitor pressing of 2,000 albums has been received from the manufacturer, and more are on the way.

The album, which features both contemporary tunes and several original compositions, reflects the broad range of talent Ms. Alford possesses. The singer has been a favorite in local clubs for several years, and the record provides those who have never enjoyed a live concert a chance to get acquainted with the uniquely talented chanteuse.

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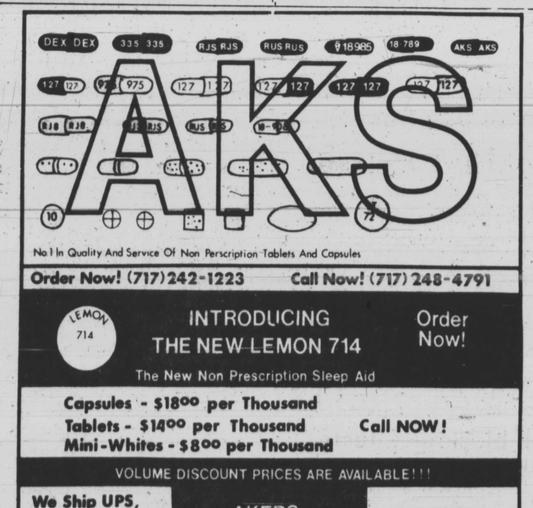

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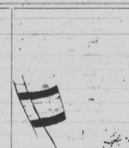

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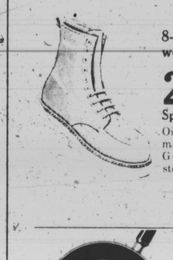

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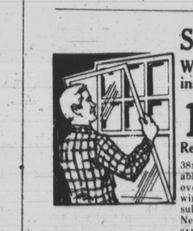

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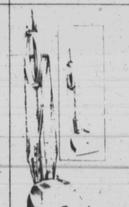

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