—NAACP

(Continued from Page A1)

The shortfall was noted in December by the branch's Executive Board when it was realized that the increases in membership would not be sufficient to handle the deficit.

"We are non-profit, but we are not tax exempt," Buntin said. "Since we are an advocacy group we can't go to large corporations or the government. We have to depend on people to support us, but it has to be at higher levels of membership," Buntin said.

The cost of the basic membership is $10. Of that amount $5 is contributed toward "Crisis", the national NAACP magazine and $2.60 is contributed toward operating the national organization. The Baltimore branch operates off of the remaining $2.40.

"We may be guilty of overemphasizing membership instead of fundraising," Buntin added.

The Board formed a finance committee to propose methods of erasing the deficit if necessary funds were not raised.

After allowing nearly a month the finance committee took its first step by suggesting staff cuts to the Board.

"This was a compromise," Buntin said. "They originally wanted further reductions."

"We have been attempting to work with the staff to find them further employment," Buntin said. "They really are demoralized and feel a sense of hurt and a lack of support."

Buntin says the lack of support is a problem in other NAACP branches (the Baltimore branch is the nation's largest) and in black institutions in general and is a result of the changing attitudes of blacks regarding racism.

"There are people who think racism does not affect them," Buntin said. "We see a lot of them here after they have fallen."

The Executive Board plans to meet Monday to consider alternate proposals of erasing the $30,000 debt and Buntin clings to hope for a last minute save.

"That is my prayer," Buntin said. "We have had discussions with black business leaders, who we have tapped for contributions and project support and we are trying to put together a plan that will correct the situation."

"Everything that we have done since I have been here has been done on faith," Buntin said. "I am optimistic. We are not through yet."

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—Hair wrap

(Continued from Page A1)

Lyric Theater.

Managing Director of BCPA, Hope Quackenbush commented on the situation saying, "Vanessa Mack was never fired and is still on our employment roster. Her immediate supervisor, Barbara Wright, tried to contact her several times in order to make our position clear. She was due for work on the 6th, 8th and 10th of January. We are still waiting for her to return to work."

"After Vanessa was told by Barbara that she could not wear a headwrap, Barbara called the house manager, who is also her superior, to confirm BCPA's position concerning headwraps not being acceptable for work," said Quackenbush.

"When the house manager arrived, Vanessa was nowhere to be found. I was not aware of this situation until today when a television station contacted me for comment. Actually I consider this to be a non-issue."

Quackenbush said, "Braided hair is fine and several of our employees wear cornrowed and braided hair. We absolutely do not prohibit these hairstyles. The most important thing is to appear for work neat and clean."

"Headwraps are not for working in a capacity that requires a uniform dress code such as ushers wear. If we allowed one person to wear a headwrap it would put us in the position of having to accept all kinds of head gear."

Quackenbush says that, in addition to three unsuccessful attempts Barbara Wright has tried to contact Vanessa by telephone, Wright had tried to talk with Vanessa at the bookstore where she is employed in the day. "Barbara told me that Vanessa made it clear she was not able to talk, pretending that she was extremely busy with work at the moment Barbara walked in the store."

Quackenbush says that "Vanessa has not attended meetings scheduled to discuss this matter. We cannot make her return to work. All we can do is let her know that her job is waiting. How much longer I do not know."

—Japanese embassy

(Continued from Page A1)

Rev. John Wright assured the AFRO that "plans for the picketing of the Embassy were funnelled through the the proper channels" and that the officers at NAACP headquarters responsible for knowledge of the demonstration had been contacted, but he too would not give reasons for cancellation of the demonstration.

Immediately before press time the NAACP State conference spokesman; Hanley Norment released to the AFRO the official State Conference position concerning what he termed "the disappointment and surprise felt by the state Conference when approval from the National headquarters was recinded."

The State conference expressed regret that plans for a scheduled non-violent demonstration which was sanctioned by the Maryland, Washington, D.C., and Northern Virginia NAACP chapters as well as by much of an informed public and the black press would be withdrawn.

The fact that approval was sought and received was stated again along with the shock the State branch felt at hearing news that the NAACP National branch would enforce an action that goes against one of the objectives for which it was organized.

Those objectives include assisting blacks in obtaining economic equality, seeking to eliminate all economic discrimination, and removing any barriers encountered through discrimination.

On September 29th, 1988 the National Black Leadership Forum/Roundtable, an umbrella group which includes 350 organizations, passed a resolution officially expressing their displeasure at the treatment American blacks have received at the hands of Japanese Korean and West German Companies.

The NAACP was most vocal at this forum and therefore it comes as quite a surprise to the State Chapters that they would call for a withdrawal of the picketing plans.

Norent said, "This demonstration would have provided a visual representation to the often raised question, what the NAACP is doing as we approach the 20th Century?"

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—Celebrations scheduled

(Continued from Page A1)

A symposium discussing the new book on the struggle of Dr. King, "Parting The Waters: America In The King Years, 1954-63." The discussion will be led by Taylor Branch the widely acclaimed Baltimore author of "Parting The Waters." Branch will be joined by several notable panelist, and will be available for questioning by the audience.

The MLK dinner program will begin at 5 p.m., also at St. John and will feature Dr. Benjamin Carson, chief of Pediatric Neurosurgery at Johns Hopkins Hospital as the speaker. Tickets for the dinner will be $5.00.

At 7:30 p.m., the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial service will be held in the main sanctuary of St. John, and will feature the Rev. Daki Napata, director of the Southern African Project of the American Friends Service Committee, will be the speaker. Greetings will be delivered by the Honorable Kweisi Mfume, member of Congress. Music will be provided by the Imani Messengers and the John R. Bryant Inspirational Choirs of Bethel AME Church.

• • •

Program to honor Dr. King's birthday will be held Friday, January 13 and Saturday, January 14.

Luther Day, principal of Carver Vocational-Technical High School will give reflections and challenge to the young people.

The program on Saturday will commence at 11 a.m. at the First Baptist Church.

• • •

"Women Challenging Racism," a seminar initiated by the Baltimore branch, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Inc., is being held Saturday, January 14, in honor of the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The goals of the seminar are to prepare women to challenge racism and to take action; to recognize racist patterns in education, employment, health, and housing; and to build networks between groups working for racial justice. The seminar is being held at The Park Heights Street Academy Humanities Building, Reisterstown Road and Shirley Avenue Mall, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

• • •

A coalition of The Southern Christian Leadership Conference, Centennial-Caroline Street United Methodist Church, Associated Black Charities and The American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees will be celebrating in an evening rally of choirs and dignitaries, Saturday, Jan. 14.

Rev. Fred Shuttlesworth, the hero of the Birmingham demonstrations of the sixties, will be featured. The day's events include unions, Southern Christian Leadership Conference, and ministers prayer breakfast beginning at 9:30 a.m. plus youth rally and march.

• • •

Churches United For Emergency Services, CUES, is sponsoring its 6th annual prayer breakfast in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. at St. Bernadine's Harcum Hall, Saturday, Jan. 14, 1989 at 9:30 a.m.

The breakfast's theme will be "We Shall Never Forget." Guest speaker will be Lee Michaels, radio personality and community activist. A donation of $11.00 is requested.

For more information, please call 361-4362.

• • •

Mpho Tutu, daughter of Nobel Peace Prize winner Archbishop Desmond Tuto, will be keynote spaker at the 14th annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Breakfast to be held at 7:30 a.m. tomorrow at Martin's West, 6817 Dogwood Road. Music will be provided by the Children's Chorus of Maryland. For reservations call the YMCA of Greater Baltimore at 837-9622.

• • •

"Dare To Be A Dreamer," a tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Sunday, January 15, 6:00 p.m. at St. Mark's United Methodist Church, 3900 Liberty Heights Avenue. All Saints, St. Mark's Choirs will sing, and there will be a performance by the Seventh Sons Theatre. Speaker, Grover Hankins, NAACP.

—Hunter bomshell

(Continued from Page A1)

school headquarters and has generated much speculation about how the changes will affect the school system.

Dr. Yates, a highly respected 33-year veteran of the school system made it clear that her resignation was not the result of any conflict between herself and Dr. Hunter.

"I've spent many happy years in the system and I'm leaving just as happy as I was when I arrived." She went on to say.

"I told him, (Hunter), the first day I saw him, that I would be leaving, but that I would help him as long as I was needed."

Dr. Yates was originally scheduled to retire in July 1988, however she stayed on at her post to assist Dr. Hunter with his transition into the superintendent's office.

Dr. Yates also commented on the plight of her colleagues. "I have some concern for the 21 others whose positions were terminated, but they are competent people. I hope they are considered favorably for the jobs available."

Dr. Samuel L. Banks, supervisor of Social Studies, said, "I think that the sudden departure of Dr. Yates has had an unsettling effect on the staff.

"We have to hope, all of us at the school system, that whatever changes made by the system will expand learning opportunities and growth for all students."

He continued, "I am personally saddened to see Dr. Yates leave so suddenly, but she is a very sensitive, able and strong educator."

Dr. Thelma B. Cox, retired assistant superintendent of Baltimore city schools, who also worked with Dr. Yates said, "If he, (Hunter), did not reorganize the system, the system would not belong to him, it would belong to those who were there when he arrived."

Dr. Banks commented further. "There is a great need for stability and a sense of equilibrium. It is not clear to the members of the system what all this means; we have to wait and see how the prices fall into place."

Former Baltimore Public School Superintendent, Alice Pinderhughes, refrained from commenting on the recent actions taken by Dr. Hunter, however she did comment on Dr. Yates. "Dr. Yates is a fine educator and she performed superbly in every position she has ever held in the public school system. She was highly regarded."

—AFRO Survey

(Continued from Page A1)

JUANITA MAYE, Educational Program Coordinator — "African American is fine with me because it is our heritage."

JESSE HOOD, Retired Longshoreman — "I am a black man, with a black wife. I'm proud of being black, very proud."

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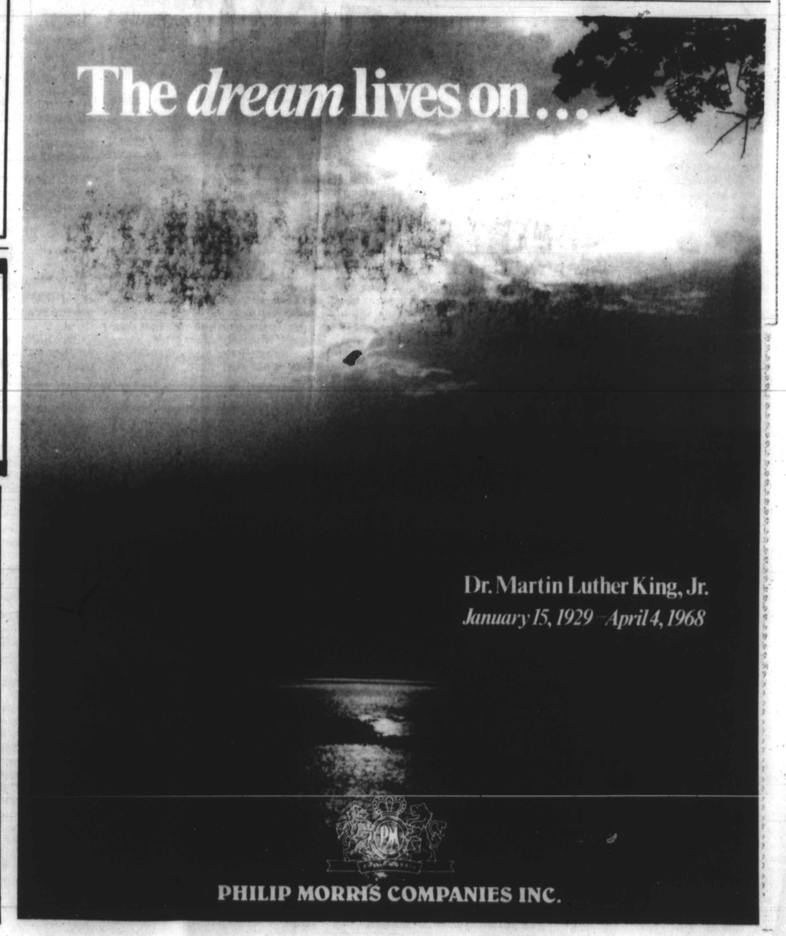
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