—Controversy erupts

(Continued from Page A1)

being directed at Dr. Allen Kennedy, academic chair of the University's Telecommunications Department, of which WEAA is a part.

Kennedy has been charged with insensitivity to the needs of the black community and attempting to force a personal agenda at the station.

"What's the old saying?" Dr. Kennedy asked. "A lie will make it half way around the world before the truth can cross the street. I don't know about a change in course; it's been more of a return to its original mission.

"In 1975 to 1977 we went to the federal government and asked for the money to purchase equipment in order to develop the country's premier program for the training of minorities in broadcasting."

Kennedy says the program reached its zenith in the late 70's and early 80's under the management of the late Larry Dean, Lamont Germany and then program director, Kweisi Mfume.

The replacement of Wesley and Coleman is not viewed as changing the stations public service commitment, Dr. Kennedy said. "What we want is a modern station with professional and community persons involved."

Kennedy added that the station has sought to continue its mission by offering the vacant positions to two former personalities: Alfie Williams, currently of radio station WWIN and Sarah Mobley, currently with radio station WZYZ AM and FM in Frederick.

"Some of the criticism we have had in the past is that we don't have enough of a female presence. We have hired two black women who also happen to have the qualifications."

Kennedy says the talent search continues.

Acting under the instructions of MSU president, Dr. Earl Richardson, Kennedy says he has spent the past seven months attempting to recruit a new station manager for WEAA.

According to Kennedy prime consideration is being given to those with upper level degrees.

Thirty individuals have applied for the position with the list now narrowed to five remaining applicants: one woman, one law degree, one doctorate's degree and three master's degrees. All of the five are black.

"Barry Young was asked to interview all of the candidates." Kennedy says his report will include input from Young and the telecommunications department and will be completed and forwarded to Dr. Bernard Hollis, dean of Academic Affairs.

Young says there are further changes ahead for the "Mahogany Message Media".

"As of June, there will be a 75% change in the thrust of the station. The station will have more state support than public," Young added. "He who pays the piper calls the tune.

"I have not heard what will happen to me, but the writing is on the wall. The way I see it there's no growth for me here."

State Senator Larry Young (D Balt.), who has been one of WEAA's most vigorous advocates in Annapolis, says he is determined to find out whether the push behind the change has come from Annapolis or the Truth Hall offices of Dr. Richardson.

"That is the question I intend to put to the State Assembly shortly," Del. Young said. "Two weeks ago I requested some background from Dr. Richardson. After two weeks I have yet to get the information.

"Also, I think that our community collectively is at fault. From Al Stewart to Barry Young we have failed to support 'EAA'. We love 'EAA', we listen to 'EAA', but when it is time to raise some money we decide we like the bread, but we don't want to be involved in its making."

Contrary to station manager Barry Young's claim, WEAA is already funded primarily by the state government. According to Del. Young fundraising has "never amounted to more than $50,000 in any year." The station budget is approximately $300,000.

Dr. Richardson echoes Senator Young's lament, "While the listeners are an important part of the University community, only 3-4% of the station's $300,000 budget is raised from the annual listener supported drive.

Dr. Kennedy says since transferring the station to the Academic department 17 months ago grants have increasingly provided for the station's operation. Three of those grants had never been received prior to that transfer and some were never applied for.

Listener donations have dropped off over the past two years," Dr. Kennedy said. "I don't think we are going to see $19,000 to $20,000 for the past 18 months.

—Legislative Round-up

(Continued from Page A1)

Sylvania W. Woods, Jr., Prince George's.

Del. Woods testified briefly before the General Assembly's Constitutional and Law Committee Tuesday on his resolution that would require the Maryland Board of Public Works to conduct and complete the fact-finding survey by Dec. 1.

The resolution said the Maryland MBE program is "subject to strict scrutiny" since the U.S. Supreme Court ruled Richmond's minority set-aside law unconstitutional because it could not prove minorities were being discriminated against.

State's Attorney General Joseph J. Curran said Maryland's 11-year-old 10 percent minority participation goal program was okay, but needed current discrimination information.

"Under this standard of review, the MBE law must be supported by concrete evidence of past discrimination against qualified minority contractors in Maryland," Curran wrote.

In Maryland, Woods said some of the county minority business procurement programs include blacks, Asians, Pacific Islanders, American Indians and Hispanics as minorities and in Prince George's County, Aloof-an Alaskan tribe, is named.

Shortly after Curran's Feb. 22 opinion, the Maryland Legislative Black Caucus held a press conference to announce its plans for the resolution, which Woods sponsored.

The bill was originally introduced Feb. 28.

Del Woods' resolution said the state's minority procurement program does not "itself involve race-based classifications" and that it helps the socially and economically disadvantaged businessperson.

The committee is scheduled to vote on the resolution in the near future. The Assembly ends April 10.

In other Constitutional and Law Committee affairs, testimony on a Senate bill that would allow county school boards to give academic credit to students who enroll in American Sign Language courses was heard.

Nancy Jenkins, a member of a Maryland deaf group, criticized the bill.

"I have reservations about it," Jenkins said, who was accompanied by her white poodle as she testified.

Jenkins said sign language should be considered a foreign language instead of being accredited only.

"We want sign language to be recognized as a foreign language. We oppose it (the bill), if it's for credit," said Jenkins.

The committee members will vote on the bill, which has the support of the Maryland State Teachers Association, soon.

On Monday, the committee also voted 18-2 in favor of Del. Howard Rawling's resolution for a federally approved commemorative monument for blacks who died during the African American Middle Passage to Slavery.

Delegates Dana L. Dembrow, Montgomery County, and Anne MacKinnon, Prince George's County, (both white) opposed the resolution.

"It's not the subject of the resolution, it's just resolutions in general," said Del. MacKinnon. She said she was surprised the committee, which usually issues unfavorable reports to resolutions, passed Rawlings' resolution.

But Dembrow, who called the resolution "not fitting", was more critical.

"That bill is a sham," said Dembrow. "If we are going to do something to commemorate their lives, we should go out and build it ourselves. We should not send a letter to President Bush."

"It won't cost us one red cent. All we are doing is sending a piece of paper to the waste can of President Bush," Dembrow added.

Dembrow and MacKinnon said resolutions have no real impact.

The House was scheduled to vote on the resolution later this week.

—Ivey, Edwards

(Continued from Page A1)

program designed to halt the eviction process for those unable to pay rent.

An ex-employee of the Urban Services Transportation Department said, "There have been several investigations as to why the buses were always traveling throughout the city with only 2 or three passengers. Afterall it takes a lot of gasoline to fill a bus tank.

"A mini-van or smaller passenger vehicle would make much more sense, plus the fact that the drivers were often seen in area neighborhoods parked, taking a nap or just goofing off, trying to fill in an 8 hour day."

The Mayor's 9 a.m. meeting with Ivey was followed by a 12 noon letter delivered to the Urban Services Agency's Assistant Director; Elva Edwards calling for her prompt dismissal, effective, Thursday, March 23.

The City Hall messenger delivered the letter to Edwards just as she began to receive guests at the agency party she was hosting in honor of her birthday. Edwards haphazardly handed the envelope to an assistant who informed Edwards of the letter's contents.

Employees at the party said, "Mrs. Edwards immediately burst out crying, the letter really shook her up, we couldn't figure out how someone who could be so callous and insensitive and run the agency like a dictatorship, and yet be so surprised when her actions caught up with her and the fact that she could garner no sympathy."

Lenwood Ivey said, "Elva was devastated by the news of her dismissal, she had no idea how this could be happening to her."

At presstime Edwards has not responded to inquires by the AFRO.

City councilwoman Jacqueline McLean said, "If the Mayor and Lenwood Ivey had a meeting at 9am and Elva received a letter a 12 noon on the same day and Ivey insists that he knew nothing about her dismissal and the issue was not discussed in his meeting with the Mayor why was the dismissal letter followed by the meeting and not on another day or even before the meeting?"

McLean continued, saying, "It's rather unusual for a director to be allowed to complete the fiscal year in a position yet the assistant director is asked to pack her belongings and leave immediately.

"An assistant director should take orders from the director so if there is a problem the director should be held accountable. Elva was just a soldier following orders

(Continued on Page A6)

Lenwood Ivey

—Bob Wade

(Continued from Page A1)

to Sharon, suppress the rumors of his wrongdoing and his ultimate dismissal.

A few weeks ago, Wade admitted to an NCAA violation in connection with the Rudy Archer affair. Although we are not condoning the breaking of rules, the incident compared to what other coaches are doing to win, appears too minute to comment on. (See Editorial on A4).

"I have known Bob Wade for a long time," Sharon said," and I feel that he is an honorable man. He is a good coach, a great recruiter and he cares about the kids who play for him."

"In my opinion, he is being treated shabbily and I think the Baltimore community should rise up to show their support for him."

Sharon, a long time resident of Baltimore, is spearheading a petition drive to present to the "powers that be" at Maryland that he hopes will show that some people in Baltimore City think that the university is wrongly trying to push Wade out.

If you would like to register your opinion about Bob Wade's treatment, please complete the informal, clip-out questionnaire and return it to Fred Lindsey at the AFRO, 628 N. Eutaw Street by April 7 or respond to the Sharon ad at 284-8541. Names and addresses are optional.

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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Red Cross Employee of the Month

Alva Porter of Baltimore has been named Employee of the Month for March by the Central Maryland Chapter of the American Red Cross.

Ms. Porter is employed as scheduling coordinator for Blood Services Nursing and has been employed with Red Cross for more than 13 years. She schedules volunteers for bloodmobiles throughout the community and helps blood recipients who wish to have the Red Cross replace the blood they used in the hospital.

Known for her calm, professional manner on the telephone, Ms. Porter never allows the often hectic nature of her workload to show.

Solomon Named Controller

George B. Solomon has been named controller for the Central Maryland Chapter of the American Red Cross. As controller, Solomon is responsible for the overall direction and implementation of the financial objects for the chapter.

Before joining the Red Cross staff, Solomon served as vice president of finance for Constant Care Community Health Center, Inc., a not-for-profit Health Maintenance Organization servicing 19,000 patients.

Solomon holds a BSBA in accounting from Providence College.

HCC Appoints Hamilton

Howard Community College has appointed Bertha Hamilton as a counselor and assistant professor in human development.

The Washington, D.C. resident was previously an academic counselor at The American University. Prior to that she was a counselor and instructor in human development at North Harris County College in Houston, Texas. She has also worked as a marketing representative for AT & T and as an assistant director of the Health Careers Opportunity Program at Texas Southern University.

Hamilton received a master's in education from Howard University and a bachelor of science degree with honors from Hampton University. She is a member of the American Association of Counseling Development.

The Mass Transit Administrations Citizens Advisory Committee recently held a reception in Annapolis to discuss transit needs with Maryland legislators. Pictured, Senator George W. Della, Jr. talks to committee member Gwendolyn Johnson. The Citizens Advisory Committee is a grass roots group that regularly rides MTA buses and the Metro, and advises the MTA on improvements in service.

Advisory committee talks to legislators

By Charles Stewart
Special to the
AFRO-AMERICAN

The Mass Transit Administration Citizens Advisory Committee recently sponsored a luncheon for more than 100 members of the Maryland General Assembly.

During the luncheon, held in the Senate Reception Room in Annapolis, the committee members sought support from the legislators for the Central Light Rail Line project proposed by Governor William Donald Schaefer.

The 27-mile light rail line will operate from Dorsey Road in Glen Burnie, with a spur to BWI Airport. The line continues through Baltimore City via Howard Street, and then to Hunt Valley.

Following the luncheon, the committee met with Lt. Governor Melvin (Mickey) Steinberg in the Governors' Reception Room. Steinberg told the committee that he had been involved in transportation projects. For many years and pledged his continuing support.

He congratulated the committee for its efforts and urged the members to keep up the good work.

Stephanie Hopkins, chairperson of the committee, could not be present at the luncheon. Ms. Hopkins, who was later contacted by the AFRO-AMERICAN, said she feels that the success of the light rail project is critical to the future of public transportation in the Baltimore area.

When asked what the light rail project means to the black community, Hopkins answered, "jobs."

"There are 340 businesses in Hunt Valley, employing 26,000 people," Hopkins said. "There are 440 businesses employing 35,000 people at BWI Airport. Light rail presents an inexpensive, comfortable, efficient, and dependable form of transportation to and from distant jobs, schools, and places of interest.

The members of the Citizens Advisory Committee are Richard R. Bolan, Dorthell Bowman, Paul Hitchcock, Gwen Johnson, Robert Legg, Josephine Maglia, Howard Needle, Alphonso B. Smith, Charles Stewart, Earl Wolfe, Madelyn Thompson.

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