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Theater
remembered
playwright in

M. L. King Honored
Rep. Dan. Blue pays tribute to
Martin Luther King Jr. at Duke
University.
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This Week
When black leaders in
Montgomery launched a
boycott of city buses in
December 1955, they
picked an articulate young
newcomer as their
spokesman, Martin Luther
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Peace And Justice Observance

King Week Focuses On Plan To Halt War

BY LARRY A. STILL
Capitol News Service

The 10-day 1991 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. official, national holiday events begin in Montgomery, Ala., with a peace and justice observance at the Civil Rights Memorial of the Southern Poverty Law Center, Sunday, Jan. 13, followed by a White House proclamation and luncheon on King's actual birthdate, Jan. 15, and

end with a nationally televised parade and "March of Celebration" in Atlanta Jan. 21, followed by a United Nations diplomatic reception at a date to be announced later.

The Federal Holiday Commission schedule was announced by Ms. Corretta Scott King, the martyr's widow and president of the King Center, with the theme "Living the Dream, Let Freedom Ring" (for peace and

nonviolence), as ceremonies were planned by more than 700 "Coalition of Conscience" volunteer organizations in scores of American cities, 48 states and 140 countries.

This year's observance marks Dr. King's 62nd birthdate, the 23rd year since the assassination of the civil rights leader and the sixth national holiday since President Ronald Reagan signed legislation in 1983

making the date effective in 1986.

The historic action designated the third Monday of each January as a national holiday to honor Dr. King, the only American other than the first United States President, George Washington, to be so honored. The Federal Holiday Commission was established to support the holiday in 1986 and extended in 1989 by President George Bush with a five-year

\$300,000 annual grant and "in-kind" government services by federal agencies, plus private, volunteer contributions. Commission officials say contributions began falling off after the first few years although activity is increasing. Rep. John Conyers (D-Mich.) and Kate Hall (D-Ind.) introduced the original legislation establishing the holiday following spontaneous birthday celebrations in

African-American communities and the capital led by singer Stevie Wonder.

Secretary of State James Baker will take time off from the Persian Gulf crisis to host a diplomatic reception in honor of King's birthday Jan. 14, with representatives of international organizations, members of the

(See KING WEEK, P. 2)

Oppression And Sexism

ACADEMIC FREEDOM QUESTIONED

Growing Pressures On Campus

SAN FRANCISCO, Calif. (AP)—A group of 150 academicians have banded together to combat what they say is the loss of academic freedom stemming from growing pressure on campuses to be "politically correct."

Efforts to battle white oppression and sexism, says the California Association of Scholars, are essentially ways of curbing freedom of speech, writing and reading. The group says current standards in admissions, curriculum and faculty hiring undermine the quality of post-secondary education in the state.

In recent months, San Francisco State University and the University of California at Berkeley have had classroom disruptions over controversial courses; angry debates have broken out at Stanford University over speech restrictions and study requirements.

But John H. Bunzel, association vice president and former president of San Jose State University, warned against what he called the specter of "fractionalization and excessive differentiation on color and related lines" taking over university life.

"We are increasingly losing our sense of common purpose as a nation, when we should be emphasizing the things that unite us," Bunzel said.

And the pressure to be politically correct "has become very pervasive," said David Littlejohn, a journalism professor at UC Berkeley.

"There begins to be a party line

(See QUESTIONED, P. 2)



COLLEGE AND PAGEANT QUEENS — Queens that reigned at the first annual Shaw University Alumni Holiday Ball Rocky Mount Chapter are left to right: Miss Johnston Community College, Annette Ethridge; Miss Shaw 1978, Dottie Harrison Cannon; Miss Shaw, Princess Whitaker;

Miss Greater Greensboro 1982 and runner-up in Miss N. C. Pageant, Karan Geneva Chavis; Miss OIC 1980, Arlin Chavis Miller; Miss Black N. C. 1972, Deneva Chavis Lacey. Not shown is Miss Shaw 1948, Erma Bullock Wilkins.

NAACP Investigating Employment Method In Congressional Offices

Expressing grave concern at the generally low level of black employment in Congressional offices, the NAACP's national board of directors has called upon the association's more than 1,500 branches to examine the staffing patterns of their representatives and senators, and to encourage corrective action when disparities are found.

The branches are also being asked to support the NAACP's efforts to persuade Congress to eliminate its own exemption from civil rights and equal employment legislation.

The NAACP staff and the board of directors' Public Sector Economic Development Committee have been instructed by the board to conduct a study regarding the employment of blacks in the Senate and the House of Representatives, to be presented at the board's February meeting.

In a preliminary review of black employment in policy-making staff positions in the Congress, the NAACP found that blacks are employed in less than three percent of professional and policy positions in both houses.

In a policy statement, according to Dr. William F. Gibson, chairman of the board, the NAACP has declared:

"This unacceptable low participation rate adversely affects black interests in the governance of this nation, and deprives senators and members of Congress of critical information concerning and sensitivity to the interests, needs and concerns of black Americans among their constituency and nationally.

"While the NAACP respects the requirements of compatibility and loyalty, we expect that all elected officials will retain qualified black professional and policy-level staff reflective and proportional to the black constituent base which they represent, and reflective of blacks as part of

(See INVESTIGATION, P. 2)

Shaw Professors Push For Peace Initiative

BY DR. ALBERT JABS.
An Analysis

Two experts on the Middle East, Dr. Urabi Mustafa and Dr. Hatem Hussaini, pray, predict, and push for peace. In spite of the dogs of war, these men, experienced in the ways of the Middle East, are working and praying for the gift of peace.

In a roundtable discussion, a wide-ranging discussion concerning peace and war issues, was featured on "Issues," a weekly WSHA program committed to commentary and analysis of international, national, state and local issues.

The consensus of the discussion was that a time-out period is necessary, a comprehensive solution is possible, and that Americans must move out of their provincialism to understand Middle East issues.

Peace is a hope and not an assurance. The General Secretary of the United Nations, at this writing, is attempting another mission of peace to the Middle East. Congress—at this writing—is debating whether to sup-

port the president. The debate is heating up throughout the land.

Life without hope is not life at all. Perhaps the message from the Middle East is to do justice, mercy and peace. These really are tough issues. Saddam and others must attempt to solve issues without taking over the neighbor's land. An even-handed Middle East policy must involve the issues of the Palestinians and the security of Israel. Frankly, both groups should work to solve problems of the environment, stop the growth of deserts, and increase fresh water supplies.

Professors Mustafa and Hussaini recognized that problems of the poor Arabs must be recognized and that stereotypes of others must be examined. Arabs look to the past, Americans look to the future. More Americans should try to understand the Arab mindset about their sense of despair in terms of an even-handed Middle East foreign policy.

(See PEACE PUSH, P. 2)

State Of "Black America Gloomy," Plan To Rebuild

Community, Government Cooperation

Justice Tells Caucus Save Afro-America

The state of black America is extremely bleak, according to National Urban League President and Chief Executive Officer John E. Jacob, who made the statement during a Washington, D.C. press conference to release his State of Black America 1991 Report recently. "We are not in a recession. We are in a continuing depression," he said.

The National Urban League report called for steps to alleviate the permanent recession that exists within the African-American community.

The passage of a 1991 Civil Rights Bill, an urban Marshall plan to rebuild America's workforce, and closer cooperation between government organizations and the community were recommended by the report, which is the most authoritative document on the status of African-Americans in the United States.

According to the report, which includes 10 scholarly papers on various aspects of black America, the threat of war in the Middle East and the current slowdown in the national economy pose grave problems to the African-American community. After a decade in which job training, health, housing, and other domestic programs suffered under the Reagan administration, 1990 signified the end of a decade where African-American unemployment rates were in double digits and the beginning of a decade full of hope for world peace.

Nevertheless, the report stated, racial inequality was higher in 1990 than it has been at any time in the past 20 years. African-Americans currently have higher unemployment rates, lower earning rates, and higher poverty rates than whites in the United States, and there is no evidence of the gap closing. David H. Swinton, dean and professor of economics at Jackson State University, said the black economic disparity "appears to be a permanent feature of the American economy." Swinton

(See COOPERATION, P. 2)

BY LARRY A. STILL
Capitol News Service

"Let's get busy," Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall told the Congressional Black Caucus in many words in urging them to help reverse the current counter-civil rights movement during a colorful mass swearing-in ceremony of five new members on Capitol Hill. Justice Marshall joined Speaker of the House Thomas Foley (D-Wash.) and Rep. Edolphus Towns (D-N.Y.), new Chairman, in confirming that a new version of the 1990 Civil Rights Bill recently vetoed by President George Bush, would be the No. 1 legislative bill to be introduced in Congress this month.

"So many people don't believe what happened to us in the past...if we don't watch out, we may have to go through it again," Thurgood Marshall

New Democratic House Representatives members Barlow Rose Collins, Detroit; William Jefferson, New Orleans; Eleanor Holmes Norton, District of Columbia; Max Baucus, Los Angeles; and Republican Gary Franks, Connecticut, joined African-Americans in the 101st Congress to establish a record-breaking 26 CBCers in the 102nd Congress which began Jan. 3. Approximately six percent of the 435 members of the House are CBC members with more than 50 white and Hispanic legislators listed as associate members because they serve predominantly or heavily populated African-American districts.

During the festive activities at the reopening of Congress, many of the representatives were solemn about possible action on the threat of war in the Middle East Persian Gulf area and pending legislative demands of

(See JUSTICE TELLS, P. 2)

Researchers Give Bank Best Rating

With all the uneasiness about the U.S. banking industry, there is a bright spot: Depositors' money is safe at a black-owned bank doing business in Raleigh.

Durham-based Mechanics and Farmers Bank has been awarded a five-star rating. The award identifies the institution as one of the safest, most credit-worthy banks in the United States.

Mechanics and Farmers has two branches in Charlotte.

Bauer Financial Reports, Inc., a Coral Gables, Fla., research firm, made the announcement.

The award is based on a zero to five-star rating assigned by BFR based on its analysis of the June 30, 1990 financial data as filed with federal regulators.

A five-star rating for the safest banks in the country indicates that the bank's tangible capital exceeds 9.0 percent of tangible assets, that there are no excessive delinquencies or repossessed assets and that the bank is profitable.

"Customarily," notes Paul A. Bauer, president of BFR, "the five-star rating is awarded to

(See BEST RATING, P. 2)



SEARCHING FOR FINGERPRINTS — James Hardy, of the City - County Bureau of Identification is seen investigating and searching for fingerprints in an apparent break-in at a



local pizza restaurant in Southeast Raleigh recently. No suspects have been apprehended in the case. (Photo By Apple I-Hour)