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The Maryland State Lottery

Rumor mills are churning coast-to-coast about Luther

By Racine S. Winborne
AFRO Staff Writer

Rumors that Columbia/Epic recording artist Luther Vandross was recently admitted to an undisclosed hospital in Los Angeles, CA suffering from the deadly disease Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (A.I.D.S.) have been buried from coast to coast.

The popular soulful male vocalist recently completed a successful return singing engagement at the Baltimore Civic Center in September.

According to a spokeswoman for Vandross's New York City publicist LeVerne Perry there is absolutely no truth to the rumors.

"I wouldn't go quoting that if I were you...its not true," said the spokeswoman.

Efforts to contact Vandross's managers Daniel Marcus and Shep Gordon at Alive Enterprises in New York were unsuccessful.

But Bill Goulding, an administrative assistant with the firm did comment on the A.I.D.S. rumors.

"He is in perfect health. He is in a Los Angeles recording studio working on his next record as we speak."

Another source telephoned the AFRO on Wednesday to announce that they had been told by his management office that the singer was relaxing in New York.

Remarked a Los Angeles Sentinel editor, "its a serious rumor." But he also cautioned that there was "nothing identifiable as to whether it is based on truth or not.

According to a local disc jockey who contacted a friend in Los Angeles early in the day on Wednesday, Vandross is gravely ill.

"He said last night (that) he was drifting in and out of a coma," the L.A. musician was quoted as saying, indicating that the source of that information came from "his inner circle".

As spokeswoman for Cedars Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles said she had personally checked out the rumor and could find no basis for it.

"The man is not here. We've checked it out under every single angle, under an anonymous name. The man is not here. We checked under his own name and

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Luther Vandross pictured here with Dionne Warwick one of the stars in the musical field he has written songs for, produced albums or sung duets with.

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CARRYING a banner that says apartheid kills, about 2,000 demonstraters march toward the South African Embassy Wednesday to mark the first anniversary of daily protests and arrests at the embassy. Cong. Walter Fauntroy, Randall Robinson, and Jesse Jackson were among the demonstrators. (UPI)

MLK birthday no holiday in County schools

By Valerie Smith-Madden
AFRO Staff Writer

The decision by Baltimore County Public Schools to remain open on Jan. 20, 1986, the Congressionally approved holiday designated for Martin Luther King's Birthday, has been greeted with criticism from Col. James R. Pennington, president of the Baltimore County NAACP.

Pennington has called for an emergency mass meeting on Friday evening, Nov. 29, at the Banneker Community Center in Catonsville inviting friends, parents and citizens of Baltimore County as well as the national president of the NAACP and the presidents of the state's 23 other NAACP branches to discuss the Baltimore County Board of Education's action.

Pennington called the county's refusal to close the schools "Not acceptable" and urged the public to attend the meeting and voice its opinions.

"This act of non-observance does not provide families an opportunity to celebrate the holiday together," he said. "It doesn't provide the children with the opportunity to witness the honoring of a black American as the nation honors its white Americans."

"Their action is not in sync with the County Executive and the County Council," added Pennington as Jan. 20, is a holiday for county employees.

Pennington stated that the county school board's action fails to "demonstrate the equality the Baltimore County Board of Education said it strives for, regardless of its past practices of not closing its doors and honor the nation's Americans who committed their lives to the progress of our great nation."

However, Roger B. Hayden, president of the County Board of Education disagrees that the county is lax in its quest for equality.

"We've worked very hard on race relations in Baltimore County," he said. "We have been open on his (King's) birthday since it was recognized as a holiday."

Hayden said the only time schools are closed on Lincoln's or Washington's birthday is when those holidays fall within Conservation Wekk.

County schools close during this time contingent on information from meteorologists who predict what will be the coldest weeks of the winter. In February 1986, schools will be closed February 10-14.

Hayden said the board has the ability to change its mind at anytime. "The board is surely convinced that the county children would learn more about King if they were in school."

S. Africa embassy protests continuing

By Randolph R. Payton
AFRO Staff Writer

As Thanksgiving Day marked the first anniversary of the Free South Africa Movement here, anti-apartheid demonstrators about 2,000 anti-apartheid demonstrators marched in the rain down Massachusetts Avenue to the South African Embassy to voice their strongest opposition to United State's continued 'engagement' in South Africa, and pledged to expand their movement to include boycotts against U.S. corporations that do business there.

Led by many national and local figures and the leaders of the Free South Africa Movement who signaled the beginning of the anti-apartheid movement across this country when they sat inside the South African Embassy and refused to leave on Thanksgiving Day last year, the demonstrators chanted "Freedom Yes, Apartheid No," and "U.S. Corporations Get Out Of South Africa" as they assembled outside the embassy.

The first three out of the more than 3,000 people arrested in the ongoing daily protests included: Congressman Walter Fauntroy (D-D.C.), Mary Frances Berry, member of the U.S. Civil Rights Commission and Randall Robinson, coordinator of the anti-apartheid protests that have become a weekday ritual of arrests and demonstrations since Nov. 21 of last year.

Over the past year, the Free South Africa Movement was successful in forcing the Reagan Administration to reverse its policy of "constructive engagement" with the apartheid regime. A ban on Krugerrand sales in this country, the growing divestment

Continued on page 7

Holiday buying season begins

$80.00 FOR THAT-(L to R) Joan Walters, Reggie Weeks, salesperson discuss one of the toys in Circus World in Mondawmin.

Thanksgiving Week inaugurates the Christmas shopping rush.

James L. Scott

Bare Hills community black since the 1700s

By Lamont Curry
AFRO Staff Writer

James L. Scott, 66, sat in a corner of the porch of a house that he has lived in since he was 10-days-old, in the Bare Hills section of Baltimore County.

He hadn't been feeling well and his mother, Mrs. Minnie R. Scott, 86, had made a run to the store for some supplies, a ritual the Scotts have been doing for hundreds of years in this quiet, rural community.

The Bare Hills area where Lake Roland straddles the county city line is one of the Metro areas oldest black communities. It is an area that was settled in the 1700s by freed slaves who began to buy the land in the early 1800s.

According to Mrs. Maria Brown, 74, one of the many direct descendants who still lives in the area, an African who was given the name Tobias Scott, saved the life of his master/owner in 1784.

The "master" was so pleased with the loyalty of Scott that he granted him freedom. It was sometime afterwards that Tobias migrated to Bare Hills from Virginia.

She weaved a scenario that included a somewhat less than hostile racial segregation delineated by roads and streets.

There were separate churches and schools, etc., but once a week, blacks and whites would come together for a Bible study. It was in such, a group that the Scotts were given the land along Falls Road in advance of monies which came later, she said.

"Nobody messed with us at all. White folks wouldn't tolerate it."

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Meeting on handguns set for Monday eve

Monday the Baltimore City Council's Policy and Planning Committee will meet at City Hall at 7 p.m. to hear testimony from groups and individuals concerning the use of handguns in Baltimore City. This special interest meeting will be held as a result of an earlier resolution which urged the committee to investigate the use of handguns in the commission of crimes in the

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Dr. Vivien Thomas dead at 75

By Racine S. Winborne
AFRO Staff Writer

Wake and funeral services were held on Wednesday for Dr. Vivien T. Thomas, the man who virtually pioneered modern heart surgery procedures.

This include the techniques used in the historic "blue baby" operation at Johns Hopkins Hospital Nov. 29, 1944–but who remained a largely unsung hero outside the realm of the local medical profession up until the time of his death this week. He was 75.

Dr. Thomas died at his home in the 1100 block of Springfield Ave. Monday, following a lengthy illness.

Services were held at the William C. March Funeral Home-West at 4300 Wabash Ave. He is buried at Maryland National Memorial Park in Laurel.

* * *

Perhaps the most telling signs of the times in 1941 when young Vivien T. Thomas arrived in Baltimore from Nashville, TN with his wife and two children to accompany the late Dr. Alfred Blalock.

Reflecting on a particular day during a 1971 interview, he said, "I remember when I came here. I was the first Negro who wasn't a janitor or something like that.

"One day Dr. Blalock asked me to bring some records over to his office. I had on my white coat,

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