NAACP schedules massive voter registration Apr. 4

By Lamont Curry
AFRO Staff Writer

The Baltimore branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People has announced a massive voter registration drive in schools here to kick-off Apr. 4, the anniversary date of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Registration and education is the theme of this year's drive, which will include private and parochial schools as well as the city's public schools.

Registration has been planned to take place during the lunch periods of each participating school.

Planners have estimated that approximately 8,000 students are, or will be, of registration age by Primary Elections Day Sept. 9. The General Election will be held Nov. 4. The last day to register before the primaries is 9 p.m., Monday, Aug. 11. The last day to register before the General Election is 9 p.m., Monday, Oct. 6.

Requirements to registration are: A citizen of the United States, at least 18 years of age by the next General Election, a legal resident of Maryland, have not been convicted (without a pardon) more than once of an infamous crime, and not under a sentence imposed pursuant to a conviction of an infamous crime and are not under guardianship for mental disability.

Marvin "Doc" Cheatham, the branch's Voter Registration/Education Chairman, ambitiously hopes to register 5,000 students this year.

The League of Women Voters, Baltimore Pan-Hellenic Council and the Monumental Bar Association have been asked to join the NAACP in registering students.

Registration has been proposed for the following schools: Lake Clifton, Southern, Edmondson, Northwestern, Northern, Baltimore Polytechnic Institute, Eastern, Patterson, Forest Park, Western, Mergenthaler Vocational-Technical, Walbrook, Southwestern, Paul Laurence Dunbar, School for the Arts, Westside Skill Center, Frederick Douglass, Fairmount Hill Vocational, Carver Vocational-Technical, Laurence G. Paquin Junior-Senior, Baltimore City College, Nathaniel Ramsay Junior-Senior, George W.F. McMechen Junior-Senior, Carroll Park Senior, Venable Senior, Francis Wood Alternative, Joseph C. Briscoe Senior, and Archbishop Curley;

Also, Archbishop Keough, Cardinal Gibbons, Catholic of Baltimore, Mercy, Mt. St. Joseph, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Our Lady of Pompei, St. Frances, Charles Hall, Towson Catholic, Seton, Institute of Notre Dame, Francis W. Parker, Prince of Good Shepherd, Loyola, McDonogh, Talmudical Academy and Roland Park County. An official announcement will be made for all of the schools that have confirmed.

Shopping centers, churches, subway stops, public events, hospitals and educational workshops are other targets for the drive.

The branch has also targeted the Seventh Congressional and the 42nd Legislative districts to do massive voter registration and education.

"It is our intent to educate our citizenry on the issues and candidates and increase minority voter registration and education," said Cheatham.

To volunteer or to acquire additional information call, "Doc" Cheatham at 669-3830 or 366-3300.

Radio reading service honored

The Baltimore Radio Reading Service has received recognition recently from the Maryland Senate for the outstanding daily reading service provided to approximately 2,000 blind citizens of Central Maryland. The resolution was presented to Leonard Frankford, the station manager, by Sen. Barbara A. Hoffman, (D., Baltimore City, 42nd District).

Due to extreme lack of funds, the Radio Reading Service is struggling to maintain its daily operation. For some blind citizens, the Radio Reading Service is their sole source of local news and enjoyment from magazines and books not available in braille.

Much of the station's funding such as the federal CETA program have been cut off and donations from foundations and corporations are declining since the station began operating six years ago.

In addition, the Baltimore Radio Reading Service will not receive the annual $25,000 from public radio station WBJC-FM because of WBJC-FM's own financial difficulties.

Although over half of the subscribers to the Radio Reading Service are not able to pay the yearly $35 fee, no one is denied the benefit of the station's services. The station broadcasts Monday through Friday, 6:45 a.m. to 11 p.m., Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Sen. Hoffman said, "I commend the Baltimore Radio Reading Service for its invaluable service to the blind citizens of Central Maryland. I will do my utmost to help secure funding for the station so that they may continue their excellent service."

GI benefits available to National Guardsmen

For thousands and thousands of people, the GI Bill was their ticket to college, their way of paying for something that might otherwise have been unattainable. Revived by the U.S. Congress, the GI Bill has taken a new twist — its benefits are now available to the National Guard.

All qualified members of the Maryland Army and Air National Guard will be eligible for education benefits worth up to $5,040.

As part of the new GI Bill, the federal program includes Guard members in the act that grants money for college. The Veterans Administration, which will operate the program, will make monthly payments to Maryland National Guard members who qualify for the grants.

To earn the benefits, a person must join the Maryland National Guard, be a high school graduate or equivalent prior to the end of initial active duty, serve at least 180 days in the National Guard, including initial active duty and have at least six years of service remaining in the Guard after July 1, 1985. Finally, a person must be enrolled in a VA-approved college or university.

For example, a person may join the Maryland National Guard at age 17, with a six-year obligation to serve with a unit. The enlistment process and initial active duty (basic training and a military skill school, such as communications) usually takes four months or longer. Once the person finishes high school and passes the 180-day milestone of total National Guard time served, the member may apply for the GI Bill's educational benefits.

Current Guard members must re-enlist, extend or otherwise agree to serve enough additional time to make a total of six years to qualify for benefits.

For a full-time student, the maximum benefit is $140 per month for 36 months — for a total of $5,040. Students attending college on three-quarter time receive $105 monthly, whole half-time students receive $70. They may begin participating in the program after only six months of service.

A person must use the GI Bill benefits for 10 years from the first day of re-enlistment, or until separation from the National Guard, whichever comes first.

Regular pay and benefits for attending monthly drills and two weeks of annual training continue, as do the federal programs that offer higher education bonuses to persons who enlist in the Maryland Army National Guard in certain specified units, and provide repayment of student loans up to 15 percent of the loan for each of six years of service.

In addition to the GI Bill, the Maryland National Guard also offers two other educational reimbursement programs. The state-sponsored tuition assistance program will reimburse an individual up to 50 percent of the tuition costs at a state college or university, not to exceed $125 per semester for people enrolled in a community college or $250 per semester for those enrolled in a state college or university.

Students may use this program for up to the amount of $2,000. Two years must remain on the enlistment contract. Eligible students of all ranks, including commissioned officers up to the rank of captain may apply. This program may be used together with the GI Bill.

Another program, the Army Continuing Education System (ACES) will start this summer. The National Guard will offer tuition assistance to all ranks for three credits.

This includes graduate school tuition costs. Enlisted members (E-5 and above) with less than 14 years of service can have 90 percent of their tuition costs paid and all other service members can qualify for a 75 percent tuition waiver. This program cannot be used along with the GI Bill.

For more information about the Maryland National Guard, call the Maryland Army National Guard's recruiting office at 1-800-492-2526 or the Maryland Air National Guard's recruiting office at 687-6270, ext. 245. For questions regarding the educational programs available through the Maryland National Guard, call the education office at 576-1483.

Deadline approaching for scholarships to St. Mary's College

March 15 is the final deadline for applications for scholarships for fall 1986 at St. Mary's College of Maryland, the state's most selective public college. More than $245,000 in scholarships are awarded to about 100 St. Mary's students each year. Most awards are based primarily on high school records and academic standing.

The two largest and most prestigious fellowship programs are the Brent Calvert and Mathias D'Sousa Fellowships. These are available to Maryland residents and awarded on the basis of academic achievement and individual merit.

Brent Calvert awards are made to Maryland students with the highest academic qualifications. The average recipient has SAT scores in the 1150 to 1250 range and high school grade point averages of 3.5 or better. The awards range from $1000 annually to full room, board, and tuition (nearly $5000).

Mathias D'Sousa awards are reserved for Marylanders of black, Hispanic, Asian, or native American background who have demonstrated high academic achievement. Awards range from $1000 annually to full room, board, and tuition.

Both awards are renewable for four years as long as the student maintains a B average in college work.

The scholarships are named in honor of early Maryland residents Margaret Brent, Leonard Calvert, and Mathias D'Sousa. St. Mary's is located in St. Mary's City, site of the first settlement and first capital of Maryland. St. Mary's, with 1400 students, has the highest average SAT scores of all public colleges and universities in the state, and is the most residential of all state colleges with 70 percent of its full-time students residing on campus.

Information on these and other scholarships is available from the Admissions Office of St. Mary's College, St. Mary's City, MD 20686, phone toll-free, 1-800-492-7181 or the Scholarship Hotline 301-863-7100, ext. 203.

CITY SCHOOLS

Programs gearing up to help the city school dropouts

By Valerie Smith-Madden
AFRO Staff Writer

Why do thousands of middle- and senior high school students drop out of city schools? What kind of influences prompt them? How can they be motivated to return to school or seek an educational equivalent to a diploma?

Members of the Dropout Retrieval project want to know. Currently, there are no programs to help dropouts drop back into the educational environment, but they're working on it.

The city school system has received a grant to develop this project and will be looking for people, 16 to 21 to tel them why they dropped out.

The project will be compiling a profile of students in danger of dropping out and they will be using several survey's to gleam this information.

Annabelle Sher, an educational specialist for the city public schools, said the project will also be looking to determine what kind of television shows these teens watch, what do they read, where do they hang out, etc.

"We're in the beginning stages," said Mrs. Sher, "and we're putting together an advisory board."

Mrs. Sher said the board will consist of members from the business, law enforcement, news, education, and human services, (Juvenile Services and Department of Social Services) communities.

"We're going to anyone we feel would know about this population.

Part of the grant contains a provision for some alternative education and staff development, and will aid in extending the program's overall impact.

After getting all the necessary information, the project will employ 20 students who have dropped out and returned to finish their education, to ask teens on the street about dropping out.

"We feel that the students would be able to relate to each other," explained Sher.

She added that the grant is from the federal government's Title II funds, for use by city public schools. "We're only funded through June, 1986," added Sher, "but we hope to be refunded."

Those interested in helping with this project should call Mrs. Sher at 396-7010, or 396-6687.

VIRGINIA SLIMS

SURGEON GENERAL'S WARNING: Smoking By Pregnant Women May Result in Fetal Injury, Premature Birth, And Low Birth Weight.

Lights: 8 mg "tar," 0.9 mg nicotine av. per cigarette by FTC Report Feb. '85. 120's: 14 mg "tar," 1.0 mg nicotine av. per cigarette by FTC Method.

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 'TWILAH SAYS' features SAGA, a group making life better for golden agers. Page 13.
- WINNERS of the Omega Mardi Gras costume contest, page 9.
- AT LAST! FRIDAY PLUS presents the results of its 1985 Best And Worst In Entertainment Survey.
- LOTTERY — Page 16.

The Urban Services Agency Center at 3021-23 W. North Ave. serves a large section of inner city West Baltimore.

Firings at Urban Services questioned

By R.B. Jones
Part 1

"They're cutting back on the people who built this agency and work with the poor residents this agency is supposed to help.

"We have to file energy assistance forms, give out cheese, do people's income taxes and file a lot of forms with less and less help.

"Over at headquarters they have six floors full of employees who don't serve the people."

The words, spoken with anger and demoralization, were said by a neighborhood services worker in the wake of the laying off of 21 neighborhood assistants last week.

According to Urban Services Commission Chairman Councilman Nathaniel McFadden, "The layoffs are the result of Gramm-Rudman cuts and the decision by President Reagan to not spend funds that were appropriated by Congress for Fiscal Year '86."

He added, "We got a letter from Neighborhood Progress Administration Dec. 20 telling us that we were going to have to make the personnel cuts, but I couldn't in good conscience tell people five days before the holidays that they didn't have a job. We waited as long as we could."

Dr. Lenwood Ivey, executive director of Urban Services, defended the cuts as absolutely necessary. "Previously we had done everything we could to avoid making cuts in neighborhood services.

"Because of the way the block grants come, we had to make cuts in the unit that handles neighborhood services.

"We've cut adminstration and we've cut out some programs, the only thing left was cutting where we did. We are well aware of the effect but this agency has been losing funds since 1974."

The union representing the workers AFSCME Council 67 disagrees vehemently. "We are not arguing that they are not experiencing budget cuts and need to lay off people," said Ms. Sallie Williams, a council representative.

"What we are objecting to, is the way that all the persons who are being cut are neighborhood assistants who are classified as twos.

"The cuts should have affected all twos, agencywide, not just

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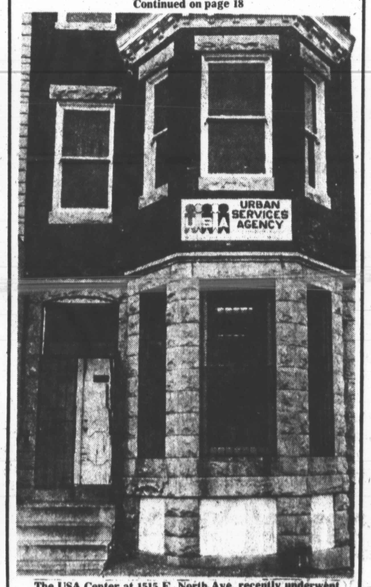

The USA Center at 1515 E. North Ave. recently underwent renovation and serves a large segment of E. Baltimore.

Loyola Northway case finally settled

See column 3

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Baltimore Afro-American

94TH YEAR NO. 60 BALTIMORE, MD MARCH 8, 1986 40 CENTS

LEGISLATURE SAYS NO, BUT COUNCILMAN FINDS:

Handguns control is already a law on the city's books

By Brion M. Tyson
AFRO Staff Writer

Two bills, aimed at controlling the handgun problem in Baltimore and around the state, were defeated during hearings held in Annapolis last week.

A bill, which originated in City Council, that would have given Baltimore "Home Rule" over handgun legislation was defeated by a vote of 6 to 5.

Another bill would have prohibited the sale of handguns classified as Saturday Night Specials.

A bill that would have stripped victims of Saturday Night Specials of the right to sue the sellers and manufacturers of the guns was also defeated. The ruling that gave victims and their families the right to sue was reached in Maryland's Court of Appeals last October.

After the hearings, State Senator Troy Brailey said, "I'm disappointed that these two bills didn't pass. It's a shame because I felt that the bill to ban the Saturday Night Special altogether would have been a good one."

"Many people talk about crime, and many of them people are in Annapolis. These people complain, but when they see that a change will cost them some money, they change their minds," Brailey said.

Brailey also said that he believes that those who voted against the anti-Saturday Night special bill probably received pressure from a number of gun manufacturers who feared that they would lose money as a result of it.

"Many times it appears that they put money before lives," Brailey added.

Brailey said that he is curious to see what City Council will do on their own after the defeat of the "Home Rule" bill.

"They come down here (Annapolis) and try to get handgun laws passed. I want to see what they will do on their own," Brailey added.

City Councilman Nathaniel McFadden, Wednesday, said he and others who support the anti-handgun thrust will present a proposal for that purpose on Monday.

According to McFadden, while

Continued on page 2

Guns for sale openly in area where Lake Clifton youth died

By Elizabeth M. Oliver

"You have $20? Then $20 will get you a gun."

This is the word that has been out for some time on "guns for sale" on the streets in the area of the Eastside, 1300 block E. Hoffman Street basketball court where Gregory Ruffin, the 17-year-old Lake Clifton High School 11th grader was shot March 3.

The death bullet went through his head from the back and exited the forehead. The time was about 7:45 p.m. He died at Hopkins Hospital at 4 p.m. the next day, March 4 without gaining consciousness.

Arrested March 4 about 6 a.m. at his home in the 3300 block Gwynns Falls Parkway was Michael Charles, 16, who is charged with first degree murder. Police say the accused youth and the dead youth were not acquainted but the ex-girlfriend of the accused gunman and young Ruffin knew them both.

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Rev. Joseph Lowery

Merger mandate for Provident not all bad

By Valerie Smith-Madden
AFRO Staff Writer

At first glance, it would seem that the amendment offered by Sen. John C. Coolahan (D-21st) which said to Provident Hospital, in effect: Merge with another hospital by July 1 or forget about the $2.5 million in state aid, is a bad thing.

But several people close to the hospital think the amendment is a positive move.

According to Walter Schneckenberger, a consultant working closely with hospital trustee George L. Russell, "that was a helpful decision."

Schneckenberger said arranging a merger with another hospital takes a lot of time. He said the March 31, 1985 deadline given by Gov. Harry Hughes to have a merger agreement negotiated, was not enough time.

"In effect, he gave us another 90 days," he said.

He added that while Provident will continue in its negotiations with area hospitals seeking a merger, "We still need the money that's in the package."

He said he was confident that the hospital would complete jits merger negotiations by July 1.

Provident still faces an uphill climb. The hospital still has a deficit, has been unable thus far,

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SCLC head says to challenge the system

By Lamont Curry
AFRO Staff Writer

The President of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), challenged a group of students at Johns Hopkins University Tuesday evening to finish the unfinished task "resist the assault on affirmative action and keep fired-up in the spirit of Dr. Martin Luther King," he said.

Dr. Joseph E. Lowery, president, SCLC - Minister, Central United Methodist Church (Atlanta, GA) and Chairman, National Black Leadership Forum, spoke at the Glass Pavillion. He was sponsored by the Black Student Union and the Student Council of the Johns Hopkins University for their 1986 Martin Luther King, Jr. Lecture.

"There's something wrong with this system and communism is not the answer. We've got to get tough enough to challenge it.

"Don't fall victim to the assault from without by the defects within.

"We have to fight the assault from without by developing a new sense of whom we are, turning to each other," he said, to a group of approximately 50 students.

Lowery granted an exclusive to the AFRO from his Brookshire Hotel suite earlier in the afternoon.

"We have to develop a sense of each otherness. When white folks wiped out our immediate families, we resorted to extended families — we've lost that.

"With the advent of Reagan, we've adjusted to an invidious in-

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No charges ruled in Loyola Northway case

By Brion M. Tyson
AFRO Staff Writer

Charges against Mrs. Betty Russell, 36, and her 20-year-old son James, stemming from an August 20 altercation with police, will not be pressed. The decision was announced by the State's Attorneys office this week.

The Russells were charged with resisting arrest, disorderly conduct, and assaulting a police officer and were arrested on the afternoon of August 20.

This came after a front yard scuffle with a team of Northwestern district detectives who had fruitlessly stopped and searched the auto of their long-time friend and neighbor.

In that incident, the officers were led by Steve "Bull" Nalewajko and Albert "Mad Dog" Marcus. The neighbor was 18-year-old James Michie. He was driving his father's new Mercedes

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POLITICS '86

By Racine S. Winbone
AFRO Staff Writer

It was curious that the Maryland Rainbow Coalition decided to endorse three candidates for statewide political office last Saturday, but chose not to endorse a single person in any of the eight congressional races, particularly in the heated 7th District contest where most of the black community has its attention focused.

No one seems to know for sure what kind of political weight a Maryland Rainbow Coalition endorsement carries with it largely becaue the organization has appeared dormant in the months since the close of the Rev. Jesse Jackson's unsuccessful bid for the 1984 Democratic presidential nomination.

The man who seems best able to discuss the organization's past, present and future direction, Maryland Rainbow Coalition Chairman Bennie Thayer, has been strangely mum.

An aide has apologized repeatedly for his inaccessibility describing Thayer as "a very busy man."

One explanation for the decision to veer away from the con-

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(AFRO Photo by P. A. Greene)

Rev. Walter Thomas, pastor of New Psalmist Baptist Church, and Rev. A. C. D. Vaughn, pastor of Grace Memorial Baptist Church, were among the 210 members of the Baptist Ministers' Conference who endorsed Attorney General Stephen Sachs for governor on Wednesday.

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