—Gov. calls summit

(Continued from Page A1)

speech the participants - including state and federal lawmakers, community and labor groups, police and state's attorneys, and representatives of each of Maryland's counties, met to discuss the governor's directive to "end the day with a real plan of action; a plan not only possible but achievable."

Schaefer specifically suggested laws be changed so casual users of illegal drugs "not be placed on probation, but must perform some sort of public service."

He also advocated the formation of a "neighborhood drug watch" program along the lines of neighborhood crime watch systems based on cooperation between civilians and police, and challenged law enforcement to institute programs where people can report drug sales "without fear."

"We must begin in our neighborhoods," he said. "We cannot solve the state's problems until we solve the neighborhoods' problems."

The drug summit was touted as the first of its kind in the state.

"Everyone must try to attack the problem," Schaefer told reporters. "People must be convinced there's a drug problem and we're not going to tolerate it."

Statistics from the Maryland Alcohol and Drug Abuse Administration show a 39 percent increase in drug abusers in the state from 1977 to 1981, and a 55 percent jump from 1981 to 1985. The next study is not expected to be completed before 1990.

The 1985 report estimated that over 150,000 Marylanders had become "dysfunctional" or were at risk of becoming so due to abuse of illegal drugs.

Police recently have linked escalating murder rates in the Washington suburbs of Prince George's and Montgomery counties with a growing crack cocaine trade.

Bishop L. Robinson, Secretary of Maryland's Department of Public Safety and Corrections Services and Vice Chairman of Schaefer's Drug and Alcohol Abuse Commission, said the number of prisoners entering state facilities last year exceeded those being released by an average of 50 per month, a trend linked to drug-related crimes. (UPI).

—Police hire

(Continued from Page A1)

shame," said Bell last Friday.

A determined Bell introduced two resolutions during Tuesday night's City Council meeting designed to attract more blacks into higher positions on the police force and alter Baltimore's exam for sergeant.

He said the current percentage of blacks on the police force needs to be changed so it will match Baltimore's demographics.

The councilman, known for his anti-drug sentiments, wants the department to strengthen its affirmative action program and possibly recruit minorities from area high schools and the city.

Bell's other piece of legislation would change the Civil Service Commission's written exam for promotion to sergeant.

"This bill would nullify the current exam" that is insensitive to minorities and is responsible for holding them in lower positions, said Bell.

Bell claims the city has failed to comply with a 1980's federal order mandating a fair promotion system in all police departments. Baltimore's non - compliance has caused "a need for parity" in the city, he said.

The number of blacks and women holding sergeant rank has not increased sizably since the Vanguard Justice Society charged the test was discriminatory in federal court, the West Baltimore lawmaker said.

But Mayor Kurt L. Schmoke said otherwise.

"Substantial progress has already been made toward correcting the problems addressed in Councilman Bell's resolutions," Mayor Schmoke said Wednesday afternoon without going into specifics.

"He (Bell) will be receiving information soon detailing that progress as well as work that has been planned toward achieving progress in the future," added the mayor.

Currently, of the total 2,994 law-enforcement work force, 703 are black, 281 are women and 59 are black sergeants, said police spokesman Dennis Hill.

Hill said in 1984, there were 3,032 total police officers in Baltimore and 567 were black.

Bell said he would like to see blacks and women take advantage of the up-coming exodus of police veterans beginning July 1, when many officers with 20 years and more retire under the city's new police pension program.

Meanwhile, not all city lawmakers support Bell's plans to revise the sergeant's test.

Councilman Nicholas C. D'Adamo, Jr., first district, said the resolution is a "slap in the face" to those applicants who studied and performed well on the test.

"Every individual is given the same book to study from. It doesn't matter if you are white, female or black. Everyone gets the same book," said D'Adamo.

"...The bottom line is, if you can't pass the test, you are not qualified to be promoted," D'Adamo continued. "This (the resolution) is saying if you are a minority and you take the test and fail, you still should be promoted because you are a minority."

"That's unfair," said D'Adamo Wednesday.

"His remarks are indicative of the reasons why I introduced the resolutions," Bell said about D'Adamo.

"He doesn't understand. The question isn't whether people should be measured by the same yardstick. That is understood," said Bell. "The question is what yardstick should be used."

Bell said the tests may not have a discriminatory intent, but they have a discriminatory impact.

But D'Adamo said he would not want unqualified people, including those who are unable to fire a weapon, to be responsible for the public's safety.

"I'm sure he had good intentions, but you can't promote people on color," the first district councilman said.

D'Adamo said if different tests were indeed given to various applicants, then Bell's bill would have been appropriate.

—Fauntroy pinch hits

(Continued from Page A1)

voter registration and education programs, is the second ranking member of the House Committee on Banking, Finance, and Urban Affairs.

As the second ranking member of the House Banking Committee, he supported the first successful housing bill in seven years. That bill, which passed the 100th Congress and signed into law in 1988, provided $15 billion to help battle this country's affordable housing crisis.

As a religious and civil rights leader, Congressman Fauntroy has a strong background in serving the African American Community. He served under the tutelage of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who appointed him director of the Washington Bureau of the Southern Leadership Conference.

Fauntroy is a former Chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus for the 97th Congress and is founder of the National Black Leadership Roundtable, which is composed of over 350 national African American organizations.

Proceeds of the June 2 event will benefit voter education and registration projects in Maryland. For more information, call 367-3045.

—Schmoke responds

(Continued from Page A1)

given enough attention on the summit's agenda.

A brief, but heated exchange ensued between the Governor and the Mayor.

The drug problem has escalated sharply in the past few years, and Baltimore Mayor Kurt L. Schmoke has been out front in formulating possible solutions.

Last year Schmoke received national attention, when he suggested that legalization be discussed as one of those solutions. While considerable debate continues about whether or not certain drugs should be legalized, many admit that the current war against drugs is ineffective.

Baltimore City has formulated a response to the drug crisis which includes treatment, prevention and law enforcement. Below are highlights of these programs.

TREATMENT

The Baltimore City Health department funds 19 outpatient drug treatment programs and 19 alcohol treatment programs. In spite of scarce resources, Baltimore City has a program for the deaf and hearing impaired and a new cocaine residential treatment service for indigent clients.

Treatment services also are provided at the Baltimore City jail. Inmates with drug problems are placed in the jail hospital or in selected cells for detoxification treatment.

PREVENTION

Prevention programs are sponsored by the health department, the public school system, the city police department, and the Housing Authority.

Other special projects sponsored in Baltimore City include Athletes Against Drugs, Project Prom Night and the Drug Abuse Forum. There is also a speaker's bureau available for use by community groups and a resource center of videos and brochures.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

According to the city, Baltimore City law enforcement agencies have increased arrest and prosecutions rates. The State's Attorney's Office has a special Narcotics Investigation Unit to prosecute serious drug cases, and the Housing Authority maintains its own professionally trained police force called REACT.

Members of the community assist law enforcement efforts through the Police Department's Block Watch Program. The Police Department also operates a telephone information line for citizens to use to report drug activity.

—Save our youth

(Continued from Page A1)

to address and seek solutions to the alarming growth of Drug-related genocide among Baltimore's black youth.

Among the group are Congressman Kweisi Mfume, Senator Larry Young, George Buntin, Fathers Maurice Blackwell and Peter Bramble, Sam Beasley, Roberta Gaines, Travis Winkey, and former Judge, Robert B. Watts.

A massive rally has been scheduled for Sunday, June 11 at the Mondawmin Mall from 3 to 5 p.m.

In mid-May, at the invitation of the Rev. Willie Ray, the group held a breakfast meeting to discuss strategies. Judge Watts presided.

They agreed to support a "Love Hands - Across Baltimore" one-day crusade in late July or early August, to spotlight the genocide and Drug Problems.

This local version of "Hands Across America," was suggested by Reverend Ray of S.A.Y. (Save Another Youth) and the Baltimore Coalition To Stop The Killing.

A press reception will be held on Thursday, June 8, 6 p.m. at the Regatta on Reisterstown Road.

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1977 Dunbar grad in Spain

By Cecil B. Newberry
Special to the AFRO

Air Force Staff Sgt. Kurt Miller does a microphone check before beginning his shift as a security police officer at Zaragoza Air Base, Spain. (U.S. Air Force photos by John Bohmer)

ZARAGOZA, Spain — When Americans arrive in Spain, they take a step back into time, to a country rich in history and tradition. Castles that housed fierce battling kings and cathedrals that dominated the Catholic nation still dot the countryside.

Rome and Morocco once conquered and ruled Spain, before kings from the different provinces of northern Spain drove them out.

Ruins of those days of domination that played so heavily in the history and culture still stand today, reminding tourists of the glory that was once Spain.

Traveling and experiencing the history of Spain is something many people can only dream of — however, for Air Force Staff Sgt. Kurt Miller — it's something he can do on the weekend.

The son of Baltimorean Delores R. Miller, Baltimore, Miller is serving in the Air Force at Zaragoza Air Base.

Located in the town of Zaragoza, members of the air base are only a few hours drive from the capital of Madrid; the beaches of Costa Brava, the summer playground of Europe; Pamplona, famous for the running of the bulls; and picturesque Barcelona, site of the 1992 Olympic Games.

"I've only been in Spain for five months, so I really haven't had much of a chance to see what the people or country are like," said Miller.

"I know that my tour here will give me a chance to see a different view of other walks of life and to experience it first hand."

Completely different from the United States, many Americans have taken the opportunity of living in Spain to get out and experience a new way of life.

"Living in Spain, has exposed us to the language daily, and that has helped my daughter learn another language while she is young," said the 1977 Dunbar High School graduate.

Zaragoza Air Base is one of two Air Force bases in Spain. Because of the excellent year-around weather, tactical fighter units from Germany and England deploy to Zaragoza to hone their skills in air-to-ground and air-to-air combat.

Miller serves this mission as a security specialist with the 406th Security Police Squadron.

"I protect the operational and non - operational resources on the base as well as the people," said Miller.

Miller and his wife, Beverly, have a daughter, Kristina, 2.

CALENDAR

Minority Women Business Owners

The second meeting of the Baltimore Chapter of the Minority Women Business Owners will be held Saturday, June 3 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at Control Data Center, 2901 Druid Park Drive, Room 209. Call 727-1558.

Women's Conference

(In its continuing effort to address issues affecting women in public workforce, the Maryland Classified Employees Association Inc. will hold its 8th annual Women's Conference, Friday, June 2 at the Forum, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The theme this year is "Improving the Quality of Your Life:Be Concerned." Lt. Gov. Melvin Steinberg and Del. Hattie Harrison are speakers. Call 298-8800 or 1-800-492-1999.

Health Fraud Awareness Seminar

Baltimore City Health Department, the Food and Drug Administration, Better Business Bureau, U.S. Postal Inspection Service, Social Security Administration, Maryland Attorney General's Office, Arthritis Foundation and Maryland Division of Drug Control are sponsoring a "Health Fraud Awareness" Seminar on Wednesday, June 7 from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., at the Baltimore Rowing and Water Resource Center, Middle Branch Park, 3301 Waterview Ave. Call 962-3731 or 347-3997.

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