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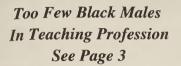
VOLUME 73 - NUMBER 25

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PRICE: 30 CENTS



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State Voters Likely to **Get Decision On Alternative Punishments**

An AP News Analysis By Dennis Patterson RALEIGH (AP) - H lawmakers have their way, voters will be looking at fairly long list of constitutional amendments in the next 18 months. The November 1996 ballot will include veto power, for sure. And voters could decide on term limits, merit selection of judges and a vic-tims' rights amendment this fall. Add to the list, almost as a certainty, an amendment on alternative punishments for convicted criminals. That amendment on alternative functions want the election held in November 1995, while the House wans it in November 1996. In would give judges more leeway in sentencing. Right now, possible punishments are limited to prison time, fines and removal from office for elected officials.

punishments are elected officials

elected officials. Under the proposed constitutional amendment, judges could sentence criminals to probation, community service, restitution, suspended sentences - with or without conditions - electronic house arrest or work

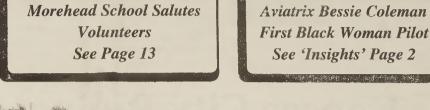
But the probation, community service, restitution, suspended sentences - with or without conditions - electronic house arrest or work programs.
All of those can be ordered as part of a sentence now, but the criminal can refuse to accept them, opting for prison time instead.
Opponents of the amendment say it is an idea whose time has come and goe. But supporters say it is needed, if for no other reason than to take way the right of criminals to refuse a sentence.
"I think if you tell people that a convicted criminal has the right to refuse these alternatives, they're going to be in favor of doing away with that," said Sen. Charle Albertson, D-Duplin, who has been pushing the amendment is." Albertson said the hardest hurdle supporters might have to overcome is convincing people that alternatives like house arest and work programs really are punishmet.
"Ard restitution is important," Albertson has been so persistent that say ear he took out a newspaper ad to try to get the measure moved out of House committee.
This is the only bill in recent history where the sponsor was so interested in its passage that he spent \$3,000 of his own money to buy a quarter page ad to try to get it out of committee," Rep.
Lary Justus, R-Henderson, said in arguing for final House approval of the amondment unimpressed.
The good bill is made a good bill because you take out an ad in the meanum of money you spend will determine if it is a good bill," said per how thy ory or yote order ads in the newspaper and heave over cowed and anovident inmates were being pushed, works." When Albertson started pushing the amendment, such addressed and yon's Work and theremines were a few days in jail, said per how yorks." When Albertson started pushing the amendment pushed a good bill because you take out an ad in the meanum of works. When Albertson started pushing the amendment and the were overcowed and anovident immates were being avoided and convident immates.

Eventually, Albertson said, 3,500 criminals chose prison over proba-

tion. But a massive prison-building program and a new sentencing format that started last year ended that, many lawmakers say. "It might would have been needed when there was no room in the inn," Fitch said of the amendment. When Albertson began offering the bill, "it was needed, but it's time to wake up," said Rep. Bob Hensley, D-Wake. "Those particular things have been changed." Structured sentencing, which eliminated parole, im-poses penalties like community service and probation. And people sent to prison under the plan will serve an average of 93 percent of their sentence.

entence. With enough prison beds, nobody will be taking an "easy-out" from

"If my options are two years under probation or eight days in prison, "If my options are two years under probation or eight days in prison, then maybe I might take the prison term," Hensley said. "But going to prison knowing I'm going to serve 93 percent of my sentence? "These are not pice places," he said. "People are not going to until to co there." want to go there



Baseball thrives with mer bers of the South Durham Youth Athletic League players. Shown are some members of the Salvation Army team who regularly par ticipate in league play. See story and photos on page 9. (Photo by Trent)

Schools Revamping Minority Scholarship Programs

CATONSVILLE, Md. (AP) - The U.S. Supreme Court has forced uni-versity officials throughout Maryland to sit down with their lawyers to redraw their minority scholarship programs so they'll pass constitutional muster.

pass constitutional musice. Last month, the high court struck down a blacks-only scholarship program at the University of Maryland at College Park. The de-cision has forced other colleges

into action. The University of Maryland at Baltimore County is changing its prestigious Meyerhoff scholarship program, designed to promote the education of blacks in science and

program, designed to promote the education of blacks in science and engineering. The Meyerhoff program has been haided nationally as a model for im-proving the pool of future genera-tions of black scientists. But state attorneys suggest that it may not pass constitutional muster. So instead of a race-based merit scholarship, the selection criteria for the program may hinge on grades, test scores and the desire to work with inner city students in reading and math, said UMBC President Freeman A. Hrabowski. When the scholarships are offered to the class entering the school in fall 1996, students of all races probably will be eligible, "I suspect that we will decide that the pro-gram will no longer be exclusively for African-American students." he said.

Widen Rich-Poor Gap Banneker scholarship in 1988 was limited to blacks. Daniel J. Pod-beresky, a student of Hispanic de-

Study Says GOP Plans Will

Widen Rich-Poor Cap Washington, D.C. (NBNS) - "The poor are being asked to bear a large share of the burden of this economic program ... at a time when conomic forces are already running against them." Those were the work to the Republican tax and spending cuts currently making their yay through Congress. It is the view of Sawhill and an apparent ma-property of economic analysis that the Republican budget plans with have the effect of making the poor poorer and the rich richer. If the plans become law, they will take effect at a time when a host of non-government economic factors are already making life increasingly difficul for the poor. According to the Labor Department, for exam-ple, the income gap between upper income Americans and lower m-come Americans has been when while those earning \$50,000 or more a year have been getting better off over time while those earning \$15,000 or tests have been getting worse off. The Republican plans will make that situation worse because disproportionately the tax cuts will benefit upper income Americans, while cuts in government programs will most adversely affect those with lower incomes.

Heart Disease Hits Blacks **Differently Than Whites**

Differently Than Whites Chicago, III. (NBNS) - Heart disease is the number one killer in America. But it appears to affect blacks differently than whites. The biggest problem among whites is clogged atteries which reduce the ability of the heart to pump blood through the body. But according to a just-released study, the deadliest problem among blacks is the en-largement of the heart. This may explain why blacks with heart dis-ease have a higher death rate than whites with heart disease. It is not that one alment is worse than the other. The simple fact is that most heart disease treatments have focused on clogged atteries and, as a result the principle heart disease problem among blacks has gone largely unstudied and untreated. Controlling blood pressure is heart becomes enlarged when it has to overwork and becomes over muscled and thus inefficient. The study was published in last Wed-nesday's issue of the Journal of the American Medical Association.

AIDS Cases Rise Sharply Among Black Homosexuals

Atlanta. Ga. (NBNS) - Officials at the Centers for Disease Control & Revention are reporting a dramatic rise in the number of AIDS cases among black male homosexuals. During the first half of 1994, there was a 79 percent increase in AIDS cases among black gay males as compared to the same period in 1989. The rate of increase and gwhite male homosexuals was only 14 percent. There was also a dramatic rise among Hispanic gay males of 61 percent. Despite an increased spread of the deadly disease into the general population, ap-restingtion 90, percent of all Amoriems afflicted with the deadly proximately 90 percent of all Americans afflicted with the deally HIV virus fall into two groups; homosexual males and intravenous drug users. The CDC also found that in recent years AIDS infection has begun to spread faster in small towns and rural communities.

South Africa Abolishes

The Death Penalty Johannesburg, South Afrida (ABNS) - While the U.S. is toward establishing en ever (aff^{36, ny}umber of crimes for which a pre-son can be put to death, South Afrida hast week abolished the death penalty after declaring it cruel and unusual punishment. The do usion by the South African high court hard been capacited for some time

said. The University of Maryland's John Lewis Blasts Newt Gingrich **On Race and Civil Rights Movement**

WASHINGTON (AP) - Georgia Rep. says House Speaker Newt Gingrich doesn't understand the civil rights movement and has in-sulted blacks by claiming they lack Lewis an Attent

Lewis, an Atlanta Demograt and longtime civil rights leader, said last Friday that Gingrich's com-finents to a group, of black journal-sis last Thursday are "an affront and insult to the legacy of the civil, rights movement." Gingrich was quitted as saying that after segrega

tion ended, the civil rights movement went off-track because it was ment went off-track because it was dominated by lawyers, ministers political activists and others "who thought there was some way to get fairness of outcome as opposed to equality of opportunity." Lewis said he said would give Gingrich, a former history professor, an "F" for his interpretation of the civil rights movement

"African-Americans do not need Newt Gingrich to lecture them on civil rights history, particularly to

those of us who have lived through the horror and degradation of segregation," he said. "I think that's nonsense," Gingrich said last Friday night at a reception in Smyrna, Ga. "I can't imagine a more racist comment than to suggest that a white person can't talk about civil rights." Lewis said equality of opportunity was the central thrust of the movement after secretation was eliminated and segregation was eliminated and remains the focus of civil rights efwas eliminated and remains the

Lewis said Gingrich's ack owledgement in the interview that interview that America has yet to become a color-blind society could be interpreted as an endorsement of affirmative action program

action programs. But, he said, "it appears more certain that Gingrich would rather blame African Americans and other minorities rather than embrace constructive programs, s sh mative action."

beresky, a student of ruspame de-seent, sued the inscript in 1990 after he was denic the scholarship. A federal judge upheia the pro-gram, but in October the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that students who did not qualify be-custed that scholarship was "nar-field to convince the appellate panel that the scholarship was "nar-fueld to convince the appellate panel that the scholarship was "nar-fueld to convince the appellate panel that the scholarship was "nar-fueld to convince the appellate panel that the scholarship was "nar-fueld to convince the appellate panel that the scholarship was "nar-fueld to convince the appellate panel that the scholarship was "nar-fueld to convince the appellate panel that the scholarship was "nar-fueld to convince the appellate panel that the scholarship was "nar-fueld to discrimination at Col-iege Park. The nation's highest court in May last month declined to review the fatest on the devined to review the fatest of Maryland's public adaption to the scholarships to the sciently time scholarships for black su-dents in a program targeting all scholarships" represent a variety of minorities as well as people who are handicapped or have overcome backgrounds of adversity.

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scent, sued the inclusivy in 1990 after he was denic i the scholarship.