

# The Carolina Times

THE TRUTH UNBRIDLED

VOLUME 73 - NUMBER 25

DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA — SATURDAY, JUNE 24, 1995

TELEPHONE & FAX (919) 682-2913

PRICE: 30 CENTS

**Too Few Black Males  
In Teaching Profession**  
See Page 3

**Morehead School Salutes  
Volunteers**  
See Page 13

**Aviatrix Bessie Coleman  
First Black Woman Pilot**  
See 'Insights' Page 2

## State Voters Likely to Get Decision On Alternative Punishments

An AP News Analysis  
By Dennis Patterson

RALEIGH (AP) - If lawmakers have their way, voters will be looking at a 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 victims' rights amendment this fall.

Add to the list, almost as a certainty, an amendment on alternative punishments for convicted criminals. That amendment has passed both the House and Senate, with only the date of the election in conflict. Senators want the election held in November 1995, while the House wants it in November 1996.

It would give judges more leeway in sentencing. Right now, possible punishments are limited to prison time, fines and removal from office for 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 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 gone. But supporters say it is needed, if for no other reason than to take away 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. Charlie Albertson, D-Duplin, who has been pushing the amendment for years. "I just don't think a criminal ought to have a say-so over what his punishment is." Albertson said the hardest hurdle supporters might have to overcome is convincing people that alternatives like house arrest and work programs really are punishment.

"And restitution is important," Albertson said. "That's one that criminals ought to be forced to do." Albertson has been so persistent that last year he took out a newspaper ad to try to get the measure moved out of a 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. Larry Justice, R-Henderson, said in arguing for final House approval of the bill Thursday.

But opponents remained unimpressed.

"If a good bill is made a good bill because you take out an ad in the newspaper ... then all of us will be taking out ads in the newspaper and the amount of money you spend will determine if it is a good bill," said Rep. Toby Fitch, D-Wilson, whose committee held the bill before. "That is not how this body works." When Albertson started pushing the amendment, the state's prisons were overcrowded and nonviolent inmates were being paroled quickly to make way for violent ones.

Stories abounded of convicted criminals who asked for prison time rather than probation, knowing they would only serve a few days in jail, rather than two years under the requirements of probation.

Eventually, Albertson said, 3,500 criminals chose prison over probation.

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, imposes penalties like community service and probation. And people sent to prison under the plan will serve an average of 93 percent of their sentence.

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

"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 nice places," he said. "People are not going to want to go there."

## 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 insulted blacks by claiming they lack entrepreneurial traditions.

Lewis, an Atlanta Democrat and longtime civil rights leader, said last Friday that Gingrich's comments to a group of black journalists last Thursday are "an affront and insult to the legacy of the civil rights movement." Gingrich was quoted as saying that after segrega-

tion ended, the civil rights movement 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 segregation was eliminated and remains the focus of civil rights efforts today.

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

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

## Schools Revamping Minority Scholarship Programs

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

Last month, the high court struck down a blacks-only scholarship program at the University of Maryland at College Park. The decision 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 engineering.

The Meyerhoff program has been hailed nationally as a model for improving the pool of future generations 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 program will no longer be exclusively for African-American students," he said.

The University of Maryland's

Banneker scholarship in 1988 was limited to blacks. Daniel J. Podberesky, a student of Hispanic descent, sued the university in 1990 after he was denied the scholarship.

A federal judge upheld the program, but in October the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that students who did not qualify because they are not black were being discriminated against.

The University of Maryland failed to convince the appellate panel that the scholarship was "narrowly tailored" to overcome the effects of prior discrimination at College Park.

The nation's highest court in May last month declined to review the 4th Circuit decision, so the ruling affects universities in Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia and West Virginia.

All of Maryland's public campuses are submitting their racially limited scholarships to the state attorney general's offices for review.

Johns Hopkins University packages its scholarships for black students in a program targeting all minorities, and its selection process considers financial need as well.

At the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Va., the 20 students who receive its "diversity scholarships" represent a variety of minorities as well as people who are handicapped or have overcome backgrounds of adversity.



Baseball thrives with members of the South Durham Youth Athletic League players. Shown are some members of the Salvation Army team who regularly participate in league play. See story and photos on page 9.

(Photo by Trent)

## Study Says GOP Plans Will Widen Rich-Poor Gap

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 economic forces are already running against them." Those were the words last week of Urban Institute spokesperson Isabel Sawhill referring to the Republican tax and spending cuts currently making their way through Congress. It is the view of Sawhill and an apparent majority of economic analysts that the Republican budget plans will 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 difficult for the poor. According to the Labor Department, for example, the income gap between upper income Americans and lower income Americans has been widening for the last 15 years in a row. The result has been that households earning \$60,000 or more a year have been getting better off over time while those earning \$15,000 or less 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

Chicago, Ill. (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 arteries 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 enlargement of the heart. This may explain why blacks with heart disease have a higher death rate than whites with heart disease. It is not that one ailment is worse than the other. The simple fact is that most heart disease treatments have focused on clogged arteries and, as a result the principle heart disease problem among blacks has gone largely unstudied and untreated. Controlling blood pressure is believed to be the best way to prevent enlargement of the heart. The heart becomes enlarged when it has to overwork and becomes over muscled and thus inefficient. The study was published in last Wednesday'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 & Prevention 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 among white 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, approximately 90 percent of all Americans afflicted with the deadly 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 Africa (NBNS) - While the U.S. is still working toward establishing an ever-larger number of crimes for which a person can be put to death, South Africa last week abolished the death penalty after declaring it cruel and unusual punishment. The decision by the South African high court had been expected for some time.