

# BLACK HISTORY MONTH EVENTS S.C. to test youth conservation program

The following are scheduled around the state today:

**University of South Carolina-Spartanburg** — 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., Minority Visitation Day, registration at 9:30 a.m., Tukey Theatre.

**Benedict College** — 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., African-American Bazaar, items and artifacts on display and for sale, baking contest, Mays Human Resources Center Arena.

**Richland County Public Library** — 11:30 a.m., black history films for ages 6 to 12; "Why the Sun and Moon Live in the Sky," "Hundred Penny Box" and "Corduroy," Eastover Branch.

**YWCA, 1505 Blanding St., Columbia** — noon to 2 p.m.,

presentation by Storyteller Olufemi Olufo, originally from Nigeria.

**Rainbow School, 937 W. Confederate Ave., Columbia** — 2 p.m., the children of Rainbow School (ages 2 to 6) present a Black History Program at Benedict College, Antisdel Chapel.

**Columbia College** — 4 p.m., 15th anniversary celebration of the Afro-American Heritage Club and awards ceremony. Special awards to black students who have excelled in academics, service and leadership, Alumnae Hall. **Great Kings and Queens of Africa** paintings, a series of 26 commissioned paintings by African-American artists are at Zion Canaan Baptist Church, 7900 Farrow Road.

By CHARLES POPE Staff Writer

South Carolina will be the first state to test an industry-sponsored conservation program for youths, one fashioned after the old Civilian Conservation Corps.

The goal of the Earth Conservation Corps, President Bonnie Guiton said, is to teach young adults 16 to 24 about the environment, develop teamwork and camaraderie and provide industry with inexpensive labor.

"South Carolina is the state in which there will be a pilot," Guiton said. "Right now, it will be the only state. It will be the model for the rest of the nation."

"South Carolina is an ideal laboratory for these young people, and they'll also feel good about the work that they do. We have been asked by other states, but we felt that South Carolina had all that was needed to make a very successful program."

The state was selected, she said, because the lingering damage from Hurricane Hugo is perfect for the type of work the corps, based in Washington, D.C., will perform and because of support from Gov. Carroll Campbell and the business community. The program is expected to be in place by summer 1992.

Much of the work will be basic labor, clearing land, removing fire hazards, preserving habitat and planting trees. For their efforts, the 50 participants will receive room and board, a uniform and a stipend. Each will work three to six months, depending on the job.

The corps will help workers find full-time jobs or continue their education after they complete the program.

The corps hopes to attract youths from "every socioeconomic level," but she acknowledged that it could be most beneficial to youths from low-income families.

Directors plan to publicize the program in schools, Indian reserva-

**"I haven't come across any industry that isn't concerned about the workforce, the quality of that workforce."**

— Bonnie Guiton, Earth Conservation Corps president

tions and migrant camps as well as in service clubs, Boy Scouts and other organizations.

"Teamwork and camaraderie is very much a part of the program," Guiton said. "A work ethic will be very much part of the training as well as a knowledge of the environment."

The cost for the program will be \$600,000, Guiton said, and because the money will be raised from private sources, the corps will be able to undertake projects on public and private lands. Projects will be selected after consulting with state officials, such as the state forester, and with industry.

Guiton conceded that the program

also will benefit industry, which traditionally has trouble finding people to do the type of physical, basic labor that the project will undertake.

"I haven't come across any industry that isn't concerned about the workforce, the quality of that workforce," she said. "And anything that can be done to help young people with the transition to the workforce is an advantage."

The program most closely resembles the Civilian Conservation Corps, established in 1933 by President Franklin D. Roosevelt as a way to help the nation out of the Depression. That program, which is federally funded, continues today, but is not widely available.

Guiton envisions the Earth Conservation Corps becoming a national program with projects in every state.

## Forest Acres policeman fired for staged shooting

By TWILA DECKER Staff Writer

A Forest Acres police officer who suffered a bullet wound to his head earlier this week staged the shooting, SLED spokesman Hugh Munn said Friday.

Anthony Duncan, 29, was fired Friday afternoon after a State Law Enforcement Division ballistic report showed the bullet had come from Duncan's gun.

"I don't know what to say, I'm so embarrassed," Forest Acres Police Chief J.C. Rowe said. "When you have someone out there that does this it hurts everyone who wears a uniform."

Duncan was on patrol about 4 a.m. Wednesday on Covenant Road when a

bullet shattered the windshield of his patrol car and grazed the right side of his head, according to initial reports.

Duncan was treated and released from Richland Memorial Hospital and had spent the past two days recovering at home.

"I just want to apologize to the citizens," Rowe said. "We accused someone of being out there just randomly shooting at police officers when it wasn't at all true."

Munn said investigators don't know how Duncan was injured, but he said a bullet from Duncan's gun was fired outside the car into the windshield.

The result of the joint SLED and Forest Acres investigation is being forwarded to 5th Circuit Solicitor Dick Harpootlian.

"I will receive the report Monday," Harpootlian said. "Until then it would be inappropriate for me to speculate on what law may or may not have been broken."

Munn said Duncan, who is married and has two children, had been having personal problems.



Duncan

## Sumter fifth-grader tries to poison her principal

Associated Press

**SUMTER**  
A fifth-grader tried to feed her principal rat poison in an attempt to keep her parents from knowing about a fight on school property.

The poisoning attempt was the second this school year by an elementary student in this city of about 41,000.

The 11-year-old put three blue-green pellets of rat poison into a cupcake and had a classmate deliver it to Zona Jefferson, principal of Alice Drive Elementary School, Police Chief Harold Johnson said.

Jefferson did not eat the cupcake because another student warned her. Johnson said he did not think the dose would have been enough to kill the principal.

The attempted poisoning followed a fight on school grounds in which the student participated. The student was told to bring her parents to school for a conference after the Feb. 8 incident.

Jefferson said the student tried to poison her Feb. 12 after twice refus-

ing to bring her parents to school.

"She was upset that I would not allow her to return to school without her parents," Jefferson said.

The girl's case has been referred to family court. She has been expelled and the school district has voted to press charges, Superintendent Lawrence Derthick Jr. said.

"It's a serious thing, and it's beyond explanation why a student would do something like that," Derthick said.

Jefferson said the student's parents plan to enroll her in an out-of-state school.

Police are unsure where the girl got the idea to poison her principal.

In September, a student tried to poison his teacher because she wouldn't let him go out for recess. That incident also involved rat poison.

Police said the 9-year-old student put poison in his teacher's iced tea after he got the idea from the movie "Heathers," which depicted murder by teen-agers.

## Early vote set on post in Marlboro

By LEE BANDY Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON

The U.S. Justice Department has cleared the way for an early special election in Marlboro County to fill the seat left vacant by the resignation of indicted former House Speaker Pro Tem Jack Rogers.

Rather than waiting until May 14, election officials will be able to schedule the voting March 26, the date state law normally would require the primary to be held.

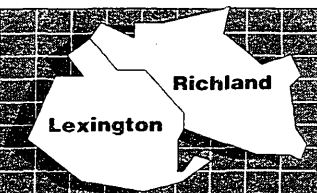
Sen. Strom Thurmond, ranking Republican on the Senate Judiciary Committee, asked the department to expedite the preclearance process.

He noted the county had been left without a resident legislator since the death of Sen. Jack Lindsay and the resignation of Rogers, who has been indicted on extortion and racketeering charges in the federal Operation Lost Trust.

Doug Jennings, a Bennettsville attorney, was the only candidate to file for the seat, and Thurmond told the department that filling the seat as soon as possible was necessary to ensure Marlboro would be included in legislative debate this spring.

Without representation in the General Assembly, Marlboro would have no voice in the deliberations on reapportionment, Thurmond said.

## METRO REPORT



## At least 125 arrested in drug sweeps

More than 125 people were arrested during the past 90 days in Lexington County on drug charges, Sheriff James Metts said.

Narcotics agents also seized drugs, guns and vehicles valued at nearly \$300,000, he said.

The drug raids occurred at The Hill in Lexington, The Tree area near U.S. 321 and S.C. 692 in Swansea, the Mount Zion area off U.S. 378 near Interstate 20, the Holmes Street and Happytown area of West Columbia, and various areas in Irmo and St. Andrews, Metts said.

Among the charges were 113 crack cocaine cases, 79 marijuana charges, 17 cocaine cases and 14 liquor law violations. Deputies confiscated two pounds of crack, 34 marijuana plants, nearly 18 pounds of marijuana, 21 grams of cocaine and 865 bottles and cans of liquor and beer, Metts said.

They also confiscated 15 handguns, including semiautomatic pistols

and revolvers and a sawed-off shotgun.

## Gunman's weapon a toy in W. Columbia robbery

A man brandishing a toy gun robbed a First Citizens Bank in West Columbia Friday morning, authorities said.

The gunman walked into the bank at 2830 Sunset Blvd. about 11:15 a.m., pulled out a black toy submachine gun from underneath his jacket and handed a note to a teller, said John C. Harley Jr., FBI special agent in charge.

The man took an undisclosed amount of money and fled into woods behind the bank, where authorities found a blue-gray stocking cap, black, cloth-lined gloves, the toy submachine gun and a red, extra large sweatshirt.

## \$6 million federal grant will help fight drug abuse

South Carolina will receive \$6 million from the federal government to fight crime and drugs, U.S. Attorney General Dick Thornburgh said Friday.

The grant will enhance state and local police departments' budgets and will be used to buy materials, supplies, equipment and hire more agents, Thornburgh said. The award is a 7 percent increase over last year's grant, he added.

Most of the money will go to the governor's Retaliation Against Illegal Drugs, more commonly known as the RAID team. The force is made up of officers from state and local police departments and conducts statewide drug dragnets and arrests.

Also with the grant, South Carolina also will continue its drug abuse education programs, Thornburgh said.

## Applications being taken for Battle of the Bands

Applications are being accepted from area bands interested in competing in a Battle of the Bands at Greenstreet's.

The applications can be picked up at radio station WNOK, Peaches in Five Points or Greenstreet's in the Bazaar on Harden Street. Or, call David Day, 782-1975, weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Preliminaries will be held March 6 and March 13. Finals are scheduled March 23.

The annual event, sponsored by the Columbia Jaycees, raises money for Richland Memorial Children's Hospital for Cancer and Blood Disorders.

## Soviet psychologist visits USC in exchange program

A Soviet psychologist is training for three weeks at the University of South Carolina.

Dr. Michael Ivanov, a professor at Moscow State University, will be at USC's Counseling and Human Development Center until March 1. He is part of a group of 12 Soviet psychologists in an exchange program.

Ivanov is talking to psychologists at USC about their work and observing psychotherapy groups at the center, which offers free individual and family counseling to USC faculty, staff and students.

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