

Wilder fires up NAACP; Coleman cools criticism

By BOB KEMPER
Staff Writer

WILLIAMSBURG — The gubernatorial candidates, appearing before the Virginia chapter of the NAACP Friday evening, made the strongest reference to what role race will play in the election.

Although the group's executive secretary, Linda Byrd-Bland, declared the group non-partisan, the crowd definitely had its favorite: Democrat L. Douglas Wilder, who if he was elected would be the first black elected governor in America.

Wilder's Republican opponent, J. Marshall Coleman, who has been on the attack during much of the campaign, said nothing negative about Wilder in his speech. The two candidates appeared separately.

Wilder, however, took note of that as he spoke to several hundred members of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

"I know that this is perhaps the only place — the only place — that my opponent has gone during the course of this campaign where I've not been the subject of smear, ridicule and degradation," Wilder told a cheering crowd.

Wilder went on to blast Coleman for his negative tactics. Coleman's crowd was smaller than Wilder's and many in the audience were wearing Democratic campaign buttons.

While the GOP contender got polite applause, Wilder got roaring standing ovations, with his speech often punctuated by cheers.

Wilder did draw an outright reaction that he was black and different.

His recalled vividly that when he was 3, his mother told him the reason he could not go to a certain store in a college town in Mississippi in 1953 after seeing another child enter the store was "because he's white and you're colored," he quoted her as saying.

Later as a teen-ager, Farmer recalled going to a segregated movie theater where he had to sit in the balcony, two days after declaring in a hall session with other college students that segregation must end.

"With your seeds, you paid for segregation to be borne again," Farmer recalled a college professor saying to him.

Farmer's recollection of mental enslavement should be remedied by expansion of literacy programs, more involvement of the middle class and other programs that stimulate children in underserved families to ignore drugs and prepare for employment.

Estelma Meyer, member of the Williamsburg chapter of the NAACP, said she was most moved by Farmer's recollection of his first encounter with segregation because youth often take for granted the rights they have



L. Douglas Wilder

... crowd favors confrontation from an audience member.

George Lucas, who was circulating profile handbills, stood when Wilder mentioned his pro-choice abortion stance, and shouted, "Black people have no right killing their babies."

Lucas said his handbill urged people to vote against the entire Democratic ticket.

Coleman stressed in his speech his record on civil rights, from his college days at the University of Virginia, where he tried to integrate local restaurants to his successful run for attorney general in 1987.

"I am committed to building Virginia's historic gains," Coleman said.

Wilder also expressed outrage that Coleman invoked the name of civil rights activist Martin Luther King.

As he did in a recent debate, Coleman invoked King's name to say people should be judged by their character, not color.

Wilder said, "I still couldn't believe it," when he heard Coleman's remark. He told the crowd that it was a Republican governor, encouraged by Coleman.

"I did not join the fight only when it became popular," Wilder told the crowd.

every person deserves an equal opportunity to succeed, not a guarantee of success, and not special treatment, but an equal opportunity to use their talents and to pursue their dreams," Coleman said.

Wilder derided Coleman for spending millions on negative television ads.

"Too many people have worked too hard for too long for us to sit back and let Virginia travel back in time and to attitudes which we Virginians left behind us years ago," Wilder said.

Wilder committed Coleman for spending millions on negative television ads.

Wilder also expressed outrage that Coleman invoked the name of civil rights activist Martin Luther King.

As he did in a recent debate, Coleman invoked King's name to say people should be judged by their character, not color.

Wilder said, "I still couldn't believe it," when he heard Coleman's remark. He told the crowd that it was a Republican governor, encouraged by Coleman.

"I did not join the fight only when it became popular," Wilder told the crowd.



DEANIS TENNANT/Staff photographer

Candidate speaks
Attorney general candidate Joseph Benedetti talks to supporters during a stop Friday at Hampton Republican headquarters. Benedetti, far behind incumbent Democrat Mary Sue Terry in the polls, plans to launch a television ad campaign during the next week.

Body

Continued from C1
tempted to get records from C1 of state.

Stanley said it could be weeks before the medical examiner gets back results of tests on the small amounts of body tissue on the bodies, and that might not be enough to determine the cause of death. In the meantime, he said police will not speculate publicly on what happened to Lauer and Phelps.

"We can't rule out anything until the lab results are in," Stanley said.

Five days after the discovery, the badly decomposed remains of a black woman between 18 and 25 was found 6 1/2 miles away, lying on the 144 right of way west of the Route 106 exit.

Stanley said no progress has been made in that case, either.

According to their parents, Lauer and Phelps shared an apartment in Williams Beach with Lauer's brother, who also was Phelps' boyfriend.

Iowa

Continued from C1
Iowa's skipper, who was given a non-positive letter of caution that was not placed in his permanent personnel file.

Navy officials have said that while they may never know the exact cause of the explosion, the "preponderance" of evidence points to an act of sabotage by Clayton M. Hartwig, a 34-year-old gunner mate from Cleveland, Hartwig who was killed in the blast.

Cotigan, a 1972 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, had served aboard six ships during his career, including a two-year tour as gunnery officer aboard the battleship USS New Jersey.

During the investigation into the Iowa explosion, Navy officials quizzed Cotigan about the training and unannounced on-board experiments conducted under the supervision of Master Chief Steven P. Skelly, a subordinate of Cotigan's and one of those disciplined.

During the investigation into the Iowa blast last spring, Cotigan told investigators he was "surprised" to learn that only five members of the 58-member crew of turret No. 2 had been certified to do their job.

Navy regulations require that all crew members standing watch in the turret of a 16-inch gun have completed a course of instruction and be officially certified. Documents reveal that only 26 of the 169 sailors in the battleship's three turrets were certified.

Investigators also questioned Cotigan about the ordinance experiments conducted aboard the Iowa without proper authorization from the Naval Sea Systems Command.

Those experiments were carried out at the direction of Skelly, who was not certified as a 16-inch gunner.

At Skelly's direction — and with Cotigan's approval — the crew of turret No. 2 prepared to fire a 2,700-pound projectile with the wrong kind of powder the day of the explosion.

For Middle Peninsula Service

pick up your phone & call

693-2111
785-2150
247-4925

- PLACE CLASSIFIED or DISPLAY ADVERTISING
- ORDER HOME DELIVERY SERVICE
- REPORT NEWS EVENTS

Middle Peninsula Office
The Daily Press
The Times-Herald
Main St. Gloucester

Responsible adults with dependable transportation needed for early morning delivery of the Daily Press in the Charles City County and Williamsburg areas.

Daily Press
Gloucester

693-2111 1-800-593-8908

Responsible adults with dependable transportation needed for early morning delivery of the Daily Press in the Charles City County and Williamsburg areas.

Daily Press
Williamsburg

229-3783 or Toll Free 1-800-543-8908

Rights advocate: Blacks need to beware of slavery of mind

By CHARLES CLARY
Staff Writer

JAMES CITY — Longtime civil rights leader James Farmer told a luncheon audience of the NAACP on Friday that slavery of the mind is the biggest obstacle — more than physical slavery — that blacks will ever have to overcome.

"It's easy to free the body," Farmer said. "You can do that with the Emancipation Proclamation or an amendment to the Constitution, but that does no good for the mind. Slavery leaves a scar on the mind."

Farmer, who with Martin Luther King Jr., Roy Wilkins and Whitney Young made up the civil rights struggle's "Big Four," was the keynote luncheon speaker on the first day of a three-day state conference for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People at the Williamsburg Hilton Hotel.

Farmer, former director of the Congress of Racial Equality, is a history professor at Mary Washington College in Fredericksburg. Farmer's speech helped to explain the theme of the conference, "Fighting Our Second Emancipation Against Slavery of the Mind."

To illustrate his point to the 250 conferees, Farmer described how and when he came to the realization that he was black and different.

His recalled vividly that when he was 3, his mother told him the reason he could not go to a certain store in a college town in Mississippi in 1953 after seeing another child enter the store was "because he's white and you're colored," he quoted her as saying.

Later as a teen-ager, Farmer recalled going to a segregated movie theater where he had to sit in the balcony, two days after declaring in a hall session with other college students that segregation must end.

"With your seeds, you paid for segregation to be borne again," Farmer recalled a college professor saying to him.

Farmer's recollection of mental enslavement should be remedied by expansion of literacy programs, more involvement of the middle class and other programs that stimulate children in underserved families to ignore drugs and prepare for employment.

Estelma Meyer, member of the Williamsburg chapter of the NAACP, said she was most moved by Farmer's recollection of his first encounter with segregation because youth often take for granted the rights they have

realization that he was black and different.

His recalled vividly that when he was 3, his mother told him the reason he could not go to a certain store in a college town in Mississippi in 1953 after seeing another child enter the store was "because he's white and you're colored," he quoted her as saying.

Later as a teen-ager, Farmer recalled going to a segregated movie theater where he had to sit in the balcony, two days after declaring in a hall session with other college students that segregation must end.

"With your seeds, you paid for segregation to be borne again," Farmer recalled a college professor saying to him.

Farmer's recollection of mental enslavement should be remedied by expansion of literacy programs, more involvement of the middle class and other programs that stimulate children in underserved families to ignore drugs and prepare for employment.

Estelma Meyer, member of the Williamsburg chapter of the NAACP, said she was most moved by Farmer's recollection of his first encounter with segregation because youth often take for granted the rights they have

value of which made them ineligible for Medicaid under the state rules.

Michael ruled Wednesday that Virginia's Medicaid eligibility restrictions violate federal law, specifically the Medicare Catastrophic Coverage Act of 1988. Virginia is one of 12 states that chose to ignore the new law.

and into Peninsula Catholic in 1966.

The school building, with tall windows and doorways, brick walls that once enclosed a schoolyard and a tiny gymnasium whose floor has darkened with age, would be sold.

Cowardin said the school's downtown location has helped develop compassion in students who often volunteer to serve food in a soup kitchen at St. Vincent de Paul Church.

But for the students and teachers "moving into a new building, the atmosphere would not be entirely unfamiliar. Coming with the school to its new site will be the status of St. Vincent at the school entrance, the white arches that connect the brick walls, and the stained glass windows inside the school.

School

Continued from C1
school at its new site, Cowardin said. She said she expected the school's enrollment to grow from its current number of roughly 170 students to about 500 students. Cowardin said the school's capacity now is about 200.

In addition to capitalizing on the city's growth, the move would put the school in a more convenient location for non-Catholic parishes from which many of the students come.

Parishes that provide financial support for Peninsula Catholic include St. Vincent, Mount Carmel, St. Jerome, St. Joseph, Immaculate Conception, St. Rose and St. Mary, Cowardin said.

The new property was offered to Peninsula Catholic for \$250,000, a price that Cowardin said is modest. The school has raised \$102,000, with the help of an anonymous donor who contributed \$52,000. The first payment of \$25,000 is due in May.

If Peninsula Catholic succeeds in raising the money, it would have behind a two-story brick building with white concrete trim. Most almost "see it as their home," Cowardin said.

The school would also leave behind their 80-year tradition of operating in downtown Newport News.

Founded in 1903 as Vincent de Paul School for Girls, the school evolved first into St. Vincent Central High School in 1900