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## Lawsuit attacks new districts

By DAN CASEY  
Staff Writer

### Delegation seeks to block General Assembly plan

Arguing that a congressional redistricting plan approved by the General Assembly last month is a perversion, county opponents this morning filed a lawsuit in federal court to block the plan. The lawsuit calls the current plan unconstitutional and asks the court to grant an injunction blocking congressional primaries and elections until a constitutional plan is adopted.

It suggests that the General Assembly be given until Dec. 1 to pass a new plan. As an alternative, the opponents ask that the court determine the districts' boundary lines. The lawsuit was announced this morning at a joint meeting of the county House and Senate delegations in Annapolis.

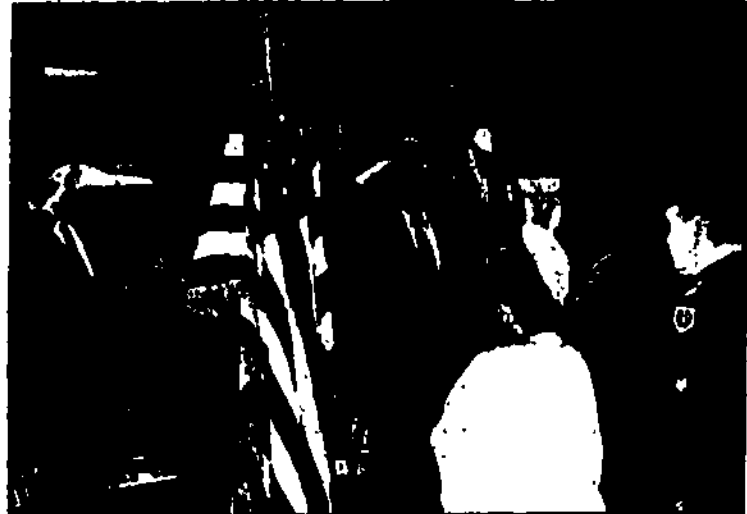
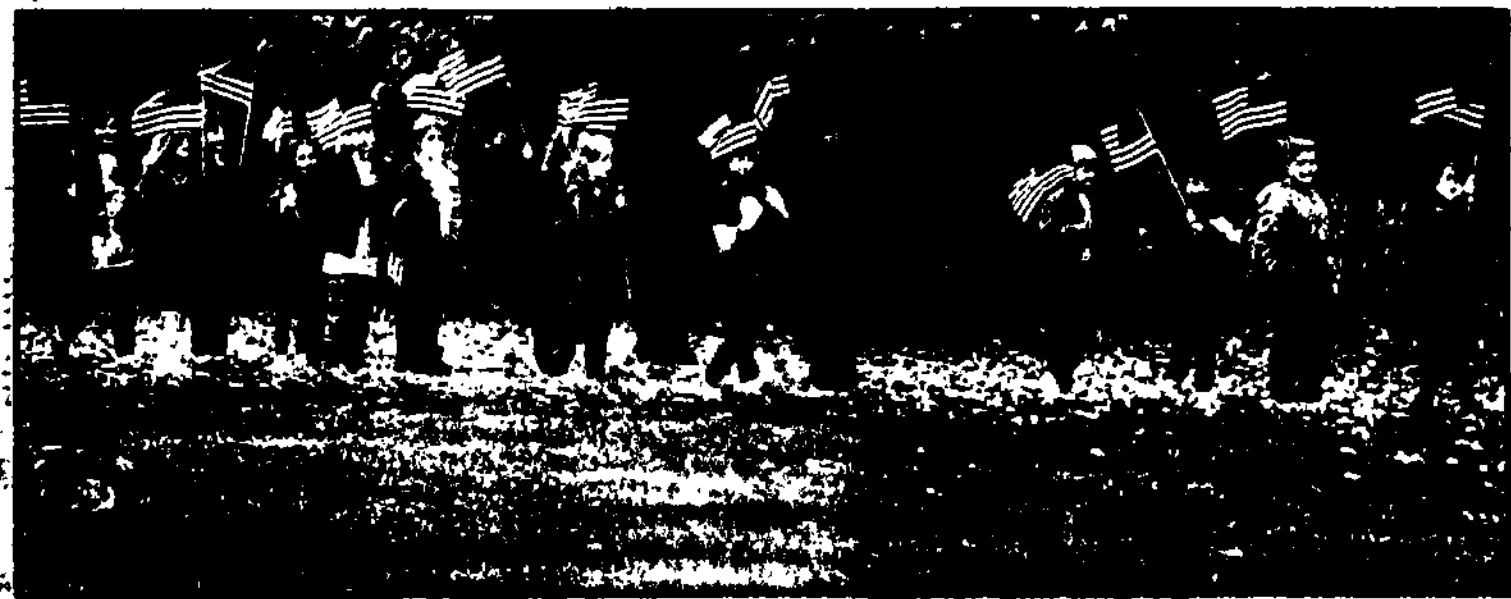
"It's unfortunate, but I think it's the only way we can defend ourselves and keep Anne Arundel County whole," said Sen. Gerald W. Winegrad, D-Annapolis. "The people are really upset at this problem. It is a political sham and a tremendous burden on the citizens," said Del. Patrick C. Scanello, D-Glen Burnie.

Annapolis attorney John R. Greiber Jr., who represents the plan's opponents, said he expects a hearing in U.S. District Court in Baltimore within two weeks. Mr. Greiber called the current plan "indefensible gerrymandering" and the "antithesis of government

for the people, by the people and of the people." Plaintiffs in the lawsuit are the Anne Arundel County Republican and Democratic central committees and their respective chairmen, Laura Green-Treffer of Edgewater and Kimberly McCoy of Severna Park.

The other plaintiffs are former Annapolis mayor Roger W. "Pip" Moyer, a Democrat from Eastport; Robert C. Schaeffer of Severna Park, a Republican Central Committee member who led a tax revolt last year; and Severn resident Libby Ramsbottom. Between them, the five plaintiffs represent voters in three of the four congressional districts created by the legislature. (See LAWSUIT, Page A14)

### REMEMBERING THE VETS



Continuing a Veterans Day tradition, Davidsonville Elementary School teacher Sherlyn Flynn, top center, wearing a purple hood, marches her fourth-grade class to Lakemont Cemetery on Route 214 yesterday to put flags on veterans' graves. At left, 8-year-old Lindsey Dieringer tries to force her flag into the cold ground. Meanwhile, in Annapolis, the Fleet Reserve Association's observance was moved indoors by the threat of rain. Here association President Paul Dix, center, wearing glasses, leads participants in a salute to the American flag. Mayor Alfred A. Hopkins is among those on hand, partly hidden by the flag.

## County school cuts put squeeze on bus drivers

By JOANNA SULLIVAN  
Staff Writer

Annette Lavelle lost a half-hour of dally driving time this fall when county schools consolidated bus routes to make way for a longer elementary school day. Like many school bus drivers, who average about \$9 an hour, her time cut meant a pay cut. The single mother from Kent Island expects her paycheck to get even smaller this year — and she's probably right to think so.

With the elimination of after-school activity buses at high schools and almost all overtime hours for drivers this year, plus an expected dip in field trips, many bus drivers and contractors will lose more money. Some said they unfairly bear too much of the Board of Education's \$10.2 million budget cuts.

"If they go any further, it may put some contractors out of business," said Ray Proutt, president of the county Bus Contractors Association. "The drivers simply aren't going to work three- to four-hour days." School officials agree that many of the cuts have been in transportation but say they have no choice. The board wants to avoid cuts in the classroom. "Basically, they have lost out," board member Maureen Carr York said. "Unfortunately, that's what we need to do in order to save the public money."

This year's school budget includes \$20.3 million for student transportation. So far, the savings from cuts in service have totaled about \$331,000. But Mrs. Carr York said the board gave the bus contractors a 5.6 percent increase in pay this year to defray the higher cost of fuel. The County Council funded only 3 percent of the raise, so coming up with the other 2.6 percent contributed to the board's budget shortfall. The Bus Contractors Association represents the 60 private contractors

who run 385 buses for Anne Arundel's public schools each day. The board owns only 66 buses. The school board last week voted to end after-school activity buses at all 12 high schools on Dec. 1 and only run the buses one day a week, instead of three, at middle schools. About \$275,000 in transportation savings is expected to come from eliminating activity buses for the rest of the year. The cut was part of \$10.2 million in cuts, including \$4.3 million for four days of employee furloughs, ordered by County Executive Robert R. Neall. Drivers and contractors already suffered pay cuts when routes were consolidated, Mr. Proutt said. The school board lengthened the elementary school day by 15 minutes, forcing it to change bus routes to meet new opening and closing times. School officials didn't know how much the change saved in transportation costs, but Mr. Proutt said it cost each contractor about \$900 per bus. "They do as many runs in less time," he said. "They lost their layovers. They're working fewer hours, so the drivers lose money." Final exam schedules have been changed so high school students will no longer leave school early — (See BUSES, Page A14)

## Social, economic ills trouble weak hearts

ASSOCIATED PRESS

ANAHEIM, Calif. — People with few social or economic resources had triple the heart disease death rate of those with money or someone to confide in, a study shows. "If you are a patient with heart disease, and you have neither love nor money, your prognosis is worse," said Dr. Redford B. Williams of Duke University. In a separate study, researchers reported what they said were disturbing findings that women were treated much less aggressively for heart disease than men. Both studies were scheduled for presentation today at the annual meeting of the American Heart Association. Dr. Williams said people who weren't married and had no one to talk to had three times the heart disease death rate of people who weren't socially isolated.

Fifty percent of the socially isolated patients died within five years, he said. "In contrast, among those who were married or did have someone to talk to, only 17 percent had died by five years," he said. Poorer people likewise had nearly three times the death rate of their wealthier counterparts. After five years, 24 percent of those with incomes less than \$10,000 per year had died. Among those with annual incomes of \$40,000 or more, only 9 percent had died, Dr. Williams said. A number of studies have suggested that low social and economic status is associated with a poorer heart disease outlook. The new study refines the earlier work by showing that social isolation and low income are independently correlated with socially isolated. (See HEART, Page A14)

### INSIDE

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## Fiscal uncertainty plagues patients' quest for sobriety

By MARK HOPKINS  
Staff Writer

Fred Heppding entered treatment for alcoholism at 8:30 a.m. a week ago today, meeting a 20-year addiction face to face for the first time. Eight hours later, one of the people who could have helped his recovery lost his job because of state budget cuts.

Instead of walking into a system with answers, the 37-year-old alcoholic faces more questions than he could have anticipated. A brutal state budget crunch has left the future of treatment for him and others like him in doubt. All Fred knows is that the sobriety he wants cannot be

gained alone. "I just want to completely quit, just walk away from it," the carpenter from Glen Burnie said. "One beer, and it's always another and another and another until I'm out of it." Without the system's four-stage treatment plan — two or three days of detoxification, 28 days of inpatient care, six months at a halfway house and extended outpatient care — he likely will not have a chance. Each program acts as a stepping stone along the river of addiction. In most cases, each stone must be crossed before sobriety is reached. But the ongoing reduction in

state contributions to these programs, most of which are non-profit and depend on Maryland for as much as 70 percent of their funds, is making it a more treacherous crossing. It got even more dangerous last week, when Maryland officials said that \$22 million in federal matching funds for facilities statewide could be threatened. "The state is telling us it's going to get worse before it gets better," said Joe Reilly, director of Samaritan House, one of three county halfway houses that will lose most of its funding Nov. 30. To offset \$324,000 in cuts already made, non-profit facilities (See FUNDING, Page A14)

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

FUNDING

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such as Samaritan House near Annapolis are searching for profitable expansions, perhaps into outpatient treatment.

Others that have been untouched so far, such as the 28-day Hope House in Crownsville, are fearful of the next round of general state budgets cuts planned for January.

Friday, county officials pumped \$150,000 into the local treatment network, enabling programs to remain open at least through June 30. Mr. Reilly called it a "tourniquet" — and it's anybody's guess how successful officials will be after the county money runs dry.

"I'm not looking for any more opportunities to be flexible (in replacing state money with county money)," County Executive Robert R. Neall said when he announced the aid.

At Samaritan House, the money crisis has led officials to raise the rent its 15 clients pay from \$60 to \$75 a week and lay off employees. One of those jobs belonged to a house manager named Chris, a former program resident who asked that his last name not be used.

"I'm more concerned about this house being here. That's my main concern," Chris said.

"I could have said, 'Screw these people. I want my job,' but I feel something for this house, whether I am working here or not."

It is that sentiment that pervades the attitudes of administrators and workers at the county's non-profit facilities — and could help the centers survive.

"Part of what you learn here is to help others. Maybe I need not to have my job any more so that these guys can get help," Chris said.

Last month, within hours of being told that Gov. William Donald Schaefer was withdrawing hundreds of thousands of dollars of support after the end of the year, both the affected and unaffected programs vowed that nothing would change.

But Friday, officials at Raft House — the only long-term treatment program in the county — announced it would close New Year's Eve. Samaritan House and the two other non-profit halfway houses, Damas-

cus House in Brooklyn Park and Chrysalis House in Pasadena, will remain open.

"I've had sleepless nights over this, believe me. I've been at this for 15 years," Raft House Director Arch Eddington said.

Mr. Eddington and his 10 staff members will be out of work.

Yet he and others said they are most worried that clients' lives are at stake.

"The governor has a preconceived notion that he's cutting the deficit. He is, in effect, killing people," said Peter, a highly paid white-collar worker in the communications field who asked that his real name not be used. He has been at Samaritan House for about three weeks.

Like other clients, Peter said that if programs do not exist, he would return to drinking and taking drugs as he did for the 17 years before being admitted to Hope House, then to Samaritan House.

"The week before treatment, I was staying in a \$17-a-night hotel. I was at rock-bottom," said Peter, who cannot remember going to work unimpaired for several years.

"I found justification for everything. It killed me emotionally, and it nearly killed me physically."

Unlike Peter, though, some clients did not have good jobs before they sought treatment.

Without programs, they said they would likely return to addiction marked by sporadic work, stealing, lying, cheating — in general costing themselves and society more money than the price of treatment.

"If we don't get help, you may see us crawling through your window," said Isaiah, a 27-year-old Davidsonville man who finished seven months of treatment Nov. 5 and was leaving Samaritan House.

Arrested several times for driving while intoxicated, he has admitted to stealing from his family to buy alcohol and drugs. He asked that his last name not be used.

Even those people just entering treatment have an inkling of what the future holds without programs.

Fred left a detoxification unit Saturday and showed up for a month of treatment at Hope House the day layoffs were announced.

If not for Hope House, "I'd be drinking. I'd still be out screwing up."

LAWSUIT

(Continued from Page A1)  
After an arduous battle that lasted nearly a month, the General Assembly last month adopted a plan that reapportions the county from a single congressional district into four.

Redistricting was made necessary by changes in Maryland's population according to the 1990 U.S. Census. Gov. William Donald Schaefer signed the plan into law shortly after lawmakers approved it.

The lawsuit argues that the current plan is flawed because it:

- Disenfranchises voters in Anne Arundel County by diluting their voting strength in congressional elections.

- It "has resulted in the conversion of voters in the state's fourth most populous county into a minority voice in each of four ... congressional districts, thereby canceling out or minimizing their voting strength," the lawsuit states.

- Leaves congressional districts in the county vastly out of balance.

A mistake in the final version of the redistricting bill inadvertently placed 4,395 people in the 3rd District that the legislature meant to include in the 1st District.

- Creates districts that are not contiguous or compact. For instance, the 2nd District, which includes most of Baltimore County and Pasadena, is divided by the Patapsco River and Baltimore City.

- Fails to keep communities intact. Odenton, for example, is split into three different congressional districts.

- Is far from the fairest plan the legislature could have adopted.

Another plan, ignored by the lawmakers, respects current congressional boundary lines, doesn't pit any incumbents against each other and is more precise in trying to make districts numerically equal, the lawsuit alleges.

The plaintiffs and other opponents of the plan are raising money to pay for the lawsuit. As of today, \$4,000 has been raised and a fund-raiser is being planned.

In defiance of advice from the state attorney general, the delegation this morning also unanimously agreed to use legislative campaign funds to help cover legal costs.

The attorney general, in a non-binding "advice of counsel" opinion, told the delegation last week that using campaign funds to pay for the lawsuit is improper.

"We should say, 'To hell with that' and tell the attorney general and the state prosecutor to indict us all," said Sen. Michael J. Wagner, D-Glen Burnie.

County Executive Robert R. Neall also attended the meeting this morning to pledge support, but not money, for the lawsuit.

"I honestly believe the public deserves to be heard in court over this ... The lawsuit can show how our county was ruined in terms of congressional representation," he said.

However, the county won't contribute any public funds to aid the plaintiffs because some taxpayers might be in favor of the redistricting plan, he said.

HEART

(Continued from Page A1)  
poor prognosis, Dr. Williams said. The importance of the finding is that it suggests relatively simple ways to lower the heart disease death rate, he said.

"The social isolation could be a target for intervention by simply having a nurse visit once a month," Dr. Williams said.

The costs of such social support are far less than bypass surgery and other medical procedures used to lower heart disease mortality, he said.

Further research is needed to evaluate the effectiveness of various social support treatments in much the same way that studies are done to evaluate the effects of lowering cholesterol or blood pressure, Dr. Williams said.

The other study, by Dr. Charles Maynard and colleagues at the University of Washington in Seattle, reported that clot-dissolving drugs used to treat heart attacks were given to 26 percent of men studied but only 14 percent of women.

Women were also less likely to receive treatment with inflatable balloons used to open clogged arteries, Dr. Maynard said.

The findings "call into question whether women are being appropriately treated for heart attacks," he said.

"We don't know why women receive treatment less often than men," he said. "We need to address why this is occurring."

Aid for Croats

St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church is accepting canned goods and blankets through Thursday to be distributed to Croatian refugees and other victims of the conflict in Yugoslavia.

Roman Catholic churches along the East Coast are collecting necessary items for those caught in the conflict. The Rev. John Murray, pastor of St. Mary's, said the items collected will be delivered by church members to New York City for shipment abroad.

Donations can be left in a room in the rectory on Duke of Gloucester Street in specially marked boxes.



SERVICE WITH A SMILE

At yesterday's fund-raiser at the Bay Ridge Inn, American Heart Association celebrity waiter Ed Riley of Capital Travel serves his table including, from left, Pat Whitehurst and Larry Groes of Baltimore, Gaye Saffold of Edgewater and Sandy Sanborn of Annapolis. About \$8,000 was raised at the event, which is very good in today's economy, according to Shirley Lieberman, association spokeswoman.

BUSES

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which means \$56,000 less for drivers and contractors.

More cuts are possible. Although the board was against changing kindergarten schedules this year, it will reconsider an all-day, three-day kindergarten next year.

If that happens, Wanda McIntire of Edgewater said her life as a driver will be over. She now works 6½ hours a day, down because of the elementary school change.

"The half-hours add up," said Mrs. McIntire, who earns \$9.25 an hour. "I wish the board would realize that. I think we've given all we can give."

Winship Wheatley, supervisor of transportation for county schools, said he realizes drivers and contractors face hardships.

"It's difficult to find people who are willing to work on a part-time basis in two shifts," he said. "It has an impact for bus contractors to retain their good employees."

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