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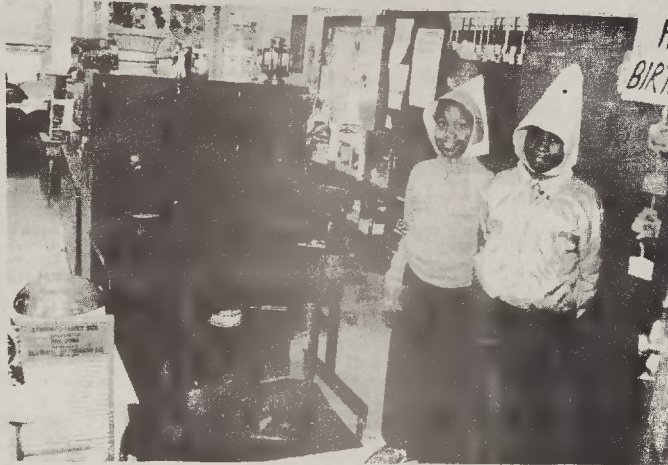
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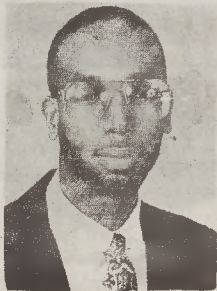
Learning About The World At R.N. Harris

Moravians' Katina O'Kelly and Keisha Roberts are part of the studies at R.N. Harris School. See story and pictures on page 4. Photo by Trent



Elvin Taylor, Jr. Gets GEM Fellowship

Elvin L. Taylor, Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. Elvin Taylor, Sr., of Durham, has been awarded a 1994 GEM Fellowship for graduate study. GEM is the National Center for Graduate Education for Minorities in Engineering and Science, Inc., headquartered in Notre Dame, Ind. For 17 years, the organization has provided opportunities for underrepresented students to graduate study. Seventy-eight Fortune 500 companies sponsor GEM scholarships. Corporate America uses this method to diversify its workforce by providing talented students with an opportunity to learn in research settings while pursuing advanced degrees. Linking the corporate structure and the academic community with talent pool is the mission of the GEM Fellowship Programs. This year, GEM made available to its corporate and university members a pool of over 800 minority applicants trained in engineering and the sciences at undergraduate institutions across the United States. From this pool of applicants, 267 were chosen as GEM graduate fellows: 215 M.S. engineering; 24 M.D. engineering and 28 Ph.D.



ELVIN L. TAYLOR, JR.

science fellows. These new fellows represent the technical leaders and professors of the future. Their graduate studies will begin with paid summer internships at Fortune 500 companies and government laboratories. With an 89% graduation rate for GEM masters fellows, over 1200 M.S. graduates and 61 Ph.D. graduates have resulted from the program. This year's pool of minority students has a grade point average of 3.4 with 33% of them with 3.5 or better grade point averages. Taylor expects to graduate from North Carolina State University, Raleigh, in May, 1994, in electrical and computer engineering. He is a 1989 graduate of Hillside High School.

Crime Session Focuses Attention On Separation of Powers

By Dennis Patterson
RALEIGH (AP) - The constitution sets up guaranteed tension between the three branches of state government, and, to a lesser degree, between the state House and state Senate.

If anyone suspected that having a Democratic governor and Democratic leadership in the Legislature would erase that tension, the special session on crime has proved them wrong.

While the state Senate has worked virtually as an extension of Gov. Jim Hunt's office during the session, the House has dug in for six weeks, debating both the cost and the need for some of the 36 measures in Hunt's crime package.

House Speaker Dan Blue says the House has just been carrying out its constitutional responsibilities. Fulfilling that role, he said, sometimes pits public opinion against public interest.

"It's our job to ask them what they are doing," he said of the executive branch. "We're supposed to ask the fiscal questions, what will it cost. And beyond that, we have to ask the policy questions about what is best for the state."

"It is slow; we're a deliberative body. That is the nature of the institution," Blue said. "And this session has distorted the roles a little bit because the crime issue is so emotional. But we have done what we had to do." There has been lots of grumbling that Gov. Jim Hunt has used his high-powered campaign organization and personal lobbying skills to try to dictate legislative action on his crime package.

Rep. John McLaughlin, D-Mecklenburg, last week answered a letter from Hunt urging the House to pass tough penalty bills.

McLaughlin's letter urged Hunt to negotiate, not dictate, on the crime package. The package of penalty bills worked out last week reflects the core of what Hunt wanted, but with a lot of modifications worked out in House deliberations.

The Senate, meanwhile, passed most of Hunt's crime bills virtually as written. The Senate, too, was far more ready than the House to return to Raleigh for the special session.

Senate President Pro Tem Marc Basnight, a longtime Hunt supporter, said the session had reinforced his support for veto power.

"I think the need for veto power has never been more clear," Basnight said. "All the governor can do is beg. Without veto power, he's just a panhandler, you might say."

"I've got more power over here than he does. I could gut his entire package if I wanted to," Basnight said. "He calls me on the phone, but I don't have to return his phone

calls. "He's got nothing to hold over my head," Basnight said.

Hunt's relative influence with the Senate may get a test this week, when senators take up a bill approved by the House Friday night that includes both their original budget bill and tougher penalty bills that Hunt insisted be approved before the Legislature leaves town.

The penalty bill provisions were part of an agreement that restarted stalled budget talks last week.

Rep. George Miller, who has sponsored all of Hunt's crime package in the House, said Friday night that Hunt endorses the penalty measures just as written in the House bill.

House budget negotiators said they wanted the penalty bills linked with the budget so they could find out just what issues were being negotiated. They had complained that negotiations on money issues were being complicated by discussions on the separate penalty bills.

Given the Senate's previous support for Hunt's proposals, the penalty bills should fly through.

But if not, senators may be getting a taste of Hunt's intense lobbying efforts.

Improving Young Children's Curricula Key to More Federal Grants at Colleges

By Randall Chase
AP - Efforts to help historically black universities and colleges improve their curricula and obtain more federal grants need to extend down to elementary schools, a black college leader said Monday.

Many black students apply to college only to learn that they don't meet the minimum requirements for admission, said Vic Hackley, chancellor of Fayetteville State University.

"We've got to pay attention to what's happening to the kids in the pipeline," said Hackley, one of several black university leaders attending a grants forum at North Carolina Central University.

Hackley said FSU helps shepherd elementary school students onto the college path, making sure they take the right courses through their public school years and guaranteeing scholarships for those who make the grade.

Bernard Franklin, chancellor of Livingstone College, echoed Hackley's call for an investment in young students.

"Lots of people say we must save the whales, save the trees, save everything," Franklin said. "There's very little discussion about saving our children." U.S. Reps. Mel Watt and Eva Clayton sponsored Monday's forum to give black educators the opportunity to meet with representatives of federal agencies that award grants and contracts.

President Clinton signed an executive order in November establishing a program to help black institutions expand their educational offerings and increase their share of federal benefits.

The order requires federal agency heads to establish annual goals for the awarding of grants and contracts

Meet the Candidates

at the
NAACP general monthly meeting
Sunday, March 27, 4 p.m.
at
Mount Calvary United Church of Christ
1715 Athens Avenue, Durham
Candidates for: Sheriff, State Legislature, County Commission
and other offices.
THE PUBLIC IS INVITED.

Student Assignments; Johnson Urges Consideration of Other Options

Harris C. Johnson, Sr., executive director and CEO of Project Excellence, urges the Durham Public Schools Board of Education to draw redistricting lines now for 1994-1995 and "put an end to the games people are playing with the lives of children."

Thanking the board and administration "for their efforts thus far by placing student assignment on the table for consideration," Johnson urged that the board consider three options in addition to the three submitted by the administration.

Johnson's memorandum to the board, dated March 21, 1994, points out that "the options presented by the administration have too many choices which may be used to avoid integrating our schools through reassignment." He noted that the alternate options had been forwarded to Dr. Pearson on March 18, 1994.

Recommended are:

"1. That elementary schools not be paired and, that students in grades Pre-K through 5 remain in the respective schools currently assigned. That attendance lines be redrawn to reflect the racial and economic balance as established by the board. This may require drawing attendance lines across neighborhoods.

"That middle school attendance lines be redrawn without pairing or the infusion of the magnet school concept as outlined in the three options presented by administration. That lines be drawn across neighborhoods, if necessary.

"That attendance zones for high schools be redrawn as traditional high schools, not as magnet schools with the exception being Durham High School which should continue as a combination traditional/magnet school.

"2. The Educational Park Concept:

The educational park concept which should utilize all schools and programs as they are with additional programs to upgrade the facilities and resources in each school. The concept of educational parks would not include magnet school concepts as the primary focus but would include innovations system wide that may include some magnet school concepts.

"3. Consider the following realignments of grades rather than the current configuration:

- A. Elementary Schools: Grades Pre-K - Six (6).
- B. Junior High: Seven (7) - Nine (9).
- C. Senior High: Ten (10) - Twelve (12).

"The three possibilities as outlined would allow for year-round schools as outlined by administration for grades K-5. However, the programs should be phased in over a period of time and would not preclude reassigning students in the 1994-1995 school year."

Johnson contends that the adoption of the Montessori School concept in Durham Public Schools "would be tragic for our children." He served on the board of directors of a Montessori School for several years and says he is aware of the "possibilities and limitations in the concept." Further, he said it would be "unreasonable" to require teachers to become accredited in its methods.

Johnson says consideration of any options should not delay the drawing of lines in time for next school year. "It is my considered impression that to delay student reassignment to allow more time to 'study' curriculum

(Continued On Page 5)

Raleigh to Have Polling Place For South Africa's All-Race Election

RALEIGH (AP) - As many as 5,000 South Africans living in the United States will cast ballots in Raleigh for their nation's first all-race election next month.

Raleigh is among 15 U.S. cities where expatriates will be able to cast absentee votes. South Africa's government is setting up polling places in the United States because its new election laws have no provision for absentee balloting by mail. The election is April 26-28.

Between North and South Carolina, we think there must be a sizable number of South Africans," said Wesley Johannesson, an embassy spokesman. "Because this is an historic election ... we are making a special effort to make it possible for South Africans to cast their vote." John Johnson, staff director for the Federal Election Commission, said it's the first time this agency has helped a foreign country set up polling places on U.S. soil.

Wake County election officials will help diplomats find a polling place. An embassy officer will preside over the voting.

Only South African at least 18 years old, including permanent residents in the United States who have kept their South African citizenship, will be eligible to vote by showing a passport or identification papers.

Embassy officials don't have precise records of how many South Africans live in the United States, but they estimate that as many as 5,000 live in the United States.

While the 1990 census indicated there are 342 South Africans living in North Carolina, embassy officials expect people will travel from neighboring states.

Other cities where voters can cast ballots are New York, Boston, Philadelphia, Atlanta, Houston, Dallas, Miami, Chicago, Los Angeles, San Francisco, San Diego and Phoenix.

The ballots will be put in sealed diplomatic pouches after the polls close and flown to South Africa for counting.