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**AMONG THE GRADUATES** of North Carolina Central University who returned to the campus recently to represent their school systems in recruiting NCCU seniors were, from left, Yvonne Campbell, teacher of the Year for 1995-96 in Vance County; Mildred Jones of Chapel Hill, who holds two master's degrees and a baccalaureate from NCCU; and N.C. Teacher of the Year Vernestine Kent Taylor, of Wils Chapel Hill, who holds her master's degree from NCCU. (NCCU Photo by Lawson)

### Fees Increase Next Fall NCCU

(AP) - Students living on campus at North Carolina Central University should budget an extra \$359 a year to help buy new computers, pay construction loans and hire staff.

The university's board of trustees on Feb. 21 approved the fee and surcharge increases that will begin next fall.

The biggest increase will be in the education and technology fee, which will go from \$59.50 to \$200 a year. Administrators will use the additional \$560,350 raised by the technology fee increase to open at least three new computer laboratories.

Students living in dorms also will pay \$109 more for rooms that aren't air conditioned and \$209 more for rooms with air conditioning. On-campus housing now costs about \$1,600 a year.

The increased room charges will help repay a \$3 million federal loan that was used for renovations and a \$5.9 million bond for a new student dormitory.

The student union fee also will increase \$50 - to \$175 - to pay for a financial aid director and an administrative assistant, trustees said.

### Man Sentenced to Jail, Service in Black Community for Cross Burning

**FLINT TOWNSHIP, Mich. (AP)** - A man accused of burning a cross in a black family's yard to try to get them to move has been sentenced to 120 days in jail and ordered to perform 200 hours of service in the black community.

**Henry Conklin Jr., 20, of Flint Township in Genesee County also was sentenced Feb. 20 to three years of probation and ordered by Circuit Judge Geoffrey L. Neithert to write a 10-page report on black history.**

**Sheryl A. Garrison, who found four wooden crosses burning in her yard on Oct. 30, 1994, said she believes the sentence is appropriate.**

**"I think it's a great idea," she said. "He still doesn't think he did anything wrong. But maybe the community service will help him learn that people are people, no matter what color they are."**

**"Who knows? Maybe he'll end up with black friends after it's over," Conklin pleaded no contest to ethnic intimidation.**

**Neithert gave Conklin 120 days in jail, minus the 80 days he already had served. Conklin may leave jail to attend school while serving the remaining 40 days of his term.**

**Since his arrest last March, Conklin had been jailed twice for allegedly violating the terms of his bond.**

**While on bond, he was charged with aggravated stalking after Garrison said he had appeared in front of her home, allegedly to intimidate the family. The stalking charge was dismissed as part of the bargain.**

**Garrison, who was living in the home with her sister and two young children, said she plans to move from the neighborhood.**

### Durham to Testify in Simpson Lawsuit

**SMOKANE, Wash. (AP)** - Mark Fuhrman will be questioned next month in the civil lawsuit filed against O.J. Simpson by the families of his slain ex-wife and her friend.

**The former police detective was subpoenaed last week by Simpson's lawyers, and a videotaped deposition was scheduled for March 10 in Idaho, the newspaper reported. Fuhrman retired to live in Sandpoint, Idaho last summer.**

**During Simpson's criminal trial, the defense portrayed Fuhrman as a racist bent on framing Simpson for the murders.**

**Fuhrman invoked the Fifth Amendment right against self-incrimination, and prosecutor Marcia Clark wound up calling him a liar and the worst LAPD has to offer.**

**Simpson may travel to Idaho for Fuhrman's testimony, to be held in a deposition within a 20-minute drive of the Bonner County Courthouse, the paper reported. The details were arranged Friday.**

**Fuhrman's lawyer, Ford Elsaesser, said he wanted a private place for the deposition to protect Fuhrman's safety and to avoid media attention.**

**District Judge James Michaud agreed, although he said a hearing may have to be held if any legal questions arise during the deposition.**

### Liggett Future In Doubt, Talks With RJR May Help

(AP) - Employees of cigarette maker Liggett could soon see their jobs go up in smoke, regardless of whether owner Bennett LeBow wins his takeover bid for RJR Nabisco, analysts say.

The speculation on Wall Street is that LeBow will try to merge Liggett with RJR Nabisco's tobacco operations should he ultimately gain control of the company. Unfortunately for Liggett, however, LeBow also has said he will hire tobacco executive Ronald Fulford to run RJR Nabisco's cigarette operations.

In his last job at British cigarette maker Imperial Tobacco, Fulford closed six of the company's seven manufacturing plants to increase efficiency and boost profits.

Most of the plants Fulford closed while he was at Imperial were similar to Liggett's factory in Durham, which is much less modern and efficient than any of RJR's U.S. plants.

"His strategy is to shut down everything except the very best plant and then run that one plant night and day," said Christopher Alexander, a tobacco stock analyst at Lehman Brothers in London.

"I don't see how Liggett could possibly fit in at RJR under Fulford," LeBow has taken millions of dollars out of Liggett since he bought the company in the late 1980s. He has spent at \$150 million by most estimates in his long-shot pursuit of RJR Nabisco.

"There are several potential scenarios I can see unfolding between LeBow and RJR, and none of them looks very good for Liggett," said Roy Burry, a tobacco industry analyst with Oppenheimer and Co. in New York. "It's fair to say that I'm not optimistic about their future." Neither LeBow nor executives at Liggett returned phone calls.

While workers at Liggett say they have become used to dire predictions about the company's future in recent years, some admit they are concerned that LeBow is spending so much money pursuing RJR.

"Nobody around here really cares for what he is doing right now," said Paul Ewing, who has worked

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## Assaults, Murders of Blacks Civil Police Suspect Fort Bragg Skinheads in Crimes

FAYETTEVILLE (AP) - Army officials at Fort Bragg were told of suspected racial crimes by some of its soldiers months before the racially-motivated murder of a black couple here, civilian lawmen say.

The arrest of three soldiers charged in connection with the Dec. 8 deaths of Jackie Burden and Michael James prompted an internal investigation that identified 22 Fort Bragg soldiers as skinheads, leading to discipline announced Friday by the 82nd Airborne Division.

But Chapel Hill police investigator Bill Flick said action could have been taken as early as last summer.

Flick said Brian Duffy, a former University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill student, never saw the boots that smashed his face and cracked his skull on May 12, 1995. A cue ball across the back of the head had already knocked him out.

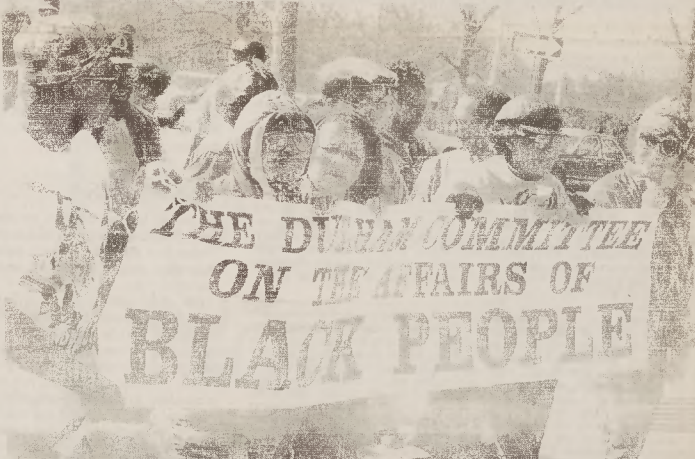
Flick said he told Army officials last summer that a license plate number led him to suspect that four of the skinheads who attacked Duffy last spring were soldiers from Fort Bragg.

"Their attitude was, 'We don't have a problem. If these guys had been involved in anything, they would have been reprimanded,'" Flick said.

The Army's Criminal Investigation Command said its agents didn't know of the suspicions until after James Burmeister and Malcolm Wright of the 82nd Airborne Division were charged with the murder of Burden and James. The two soldiers are charged with first-degree murder, and Randy Meadows is charged with conspiracy to commit murder.

Police said the white suspects were looking for black people to harass when they picked out Burden

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**IN HONOR OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH**, the Durham Committee on the Affairs of Black People sponsored a Unity March and Rally Saturday, February 24, from the North Carolina Mutual building to North Carolina Central University. The theme was: "It's All Good - Durham United." Participants included members of the DCABP, NAACP, MMM, DB&PC, Durham Community MLK Steering Committee, Mosque #34 - Nation of Islam, Durham Masjid Ar-Razzaq and NCCU Students. (Photos by Ray Trent)

## Judge Raises Questions About Race-Based School Districts

(AP) - A lawsuit challenging Durham's school board voting plan raises serious questions about race-based districting, a federal judge said.

In a strongly worded opinion issued Friday, U.S. District Court Judge Terrence Boyle questioned whether Durham should proceed with the May 7 school board election.

Earlier this month, three white Durham residents, Hazard Cannon, Norman Phillips and Dan Sizemore, asked the federal courts to halt the election. They claimed that the voting plan, created in 1992 to elect a racially diverse school board, formed white and black voting districts and is unconstitutional.

Boyle, who temporarily stepped into the case assigned to Judge Earl Britt, called the challenge to the school board voting plan "exceptionally strong." Britt reportedly was out of the country when Boyle issued his opinion, but since has returned.

In his 11-page opinion, Boyle wrote that either a fellow judge, such as Britt, should set a hearing within 10 days, or else Boyle would put the election on hold until a hearing is held.

County Attorney Russ Odom called Boyle's ruling "very unusual." "I don't know how Judge Britt is going to react to Judge Boyle coming in and making these extensive opinions," Odom said.

Assistant State Attorney General Eddie Speas Jr., who's representing the state-level targets of the lawsuit - the N.C. Board of Education, Lt. Gov. Dennis Wicker and state Speaker of the House Harold Brubaker - referred questions to Odom.

Twenty-four candidates are vying for seven seats on the board in the first full election since city and county schools merged in 1992. The lawsuit contends that three of the school districts were drawn to include black majorities.

"In light of these extraordinary circumstances, it would be imprudent to proceed with an election under a districting plan ... where recent developments in the lawsuit suggest plaintiffs stand a strong likelihood of success on the merits," Boyle wrote.

The U.S. Supreme Court is expected to shed more light on the question of race-based districting when it rules on another lawsuit filed by Durham residents challenging North Carolina's two newest congressional districts, Boyle noted.

Both of the congressional districts, the 1st and the 12th, are represented by blacks.

Michael Crowell, who represented the county commissioners in Cannon's original suit challenging school merger, said there are significant differences

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