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MARGARET G. ALEXANDER presents the 12th annual M. Alexander Sr. Humanitarian Award to Harvey B. Gantt of the state which was accepted by Congressman Mel Watt on behalf of Gantt who could not attend because of illness. (Photo by Ray ...)

New York Man Held In Mrs. Harris' Death

Donald John Scanlon of Syracuse, New York, was indicted this week by a grand jury in Durham on a charge of murdering Mrs. Claudine Wilson Harris. He was jailed in a Janesville, N.Y. Correctional Facility on nonsupport charges, and held on charges of forgery filed by Durham detectives.

Mrs. Harris, a retired teacher, was an activist in behalf of those less fortunate. She had formed a construction company in order to provide work for the homeless and unemployed. Scanlon, a drifter, had been helped by Mrs. Harris with work, and she was impressed with his carpentry skills. She later let him move into her home in the Old Farm community in northern Durham. He had moved out of her home, but was still employed by her.

On February 27, Mrs. Harris was found dead in her bed. She had been smothered to death. Her credit cards and her automobile were gone.

Mrs. Harris' car was found several days later in New Orleans, La., after having been reported stolen. Its personalized North Carolina license plate bore her initials, CWH. Three people in New Orleans were charged with possession of stolen property, but they were not considered suspects in the murder.

A trail of evidence based on use of Mrs. Harris' stolen credit cards pointed to Scanlon, giving Durham detectives the possible clue that he might head for his home in Syracuse. He was found there upon notification by Durham Police detectives. An extradition hearing to return him to Durham will be held after Scanlon completes his sentence in Janesville.

Mrs. Harris was the great-aunt of Keith Warren whose mysterious death July 31, 1986 in Silver Spring, Md., at the age of 19, to date has not been solved to the satisfaction of his family, some forensic scientists and others familiar with the case.



MRS. HARRIS

Congressional Black Caucus silent on Iraqi hearings, says AFRO

The Washington Afro-American recently reported that "not one member of the Congressional Black Caucus has said anything about the upcoming hearings regarding Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan" who was scheduled to testify earlier this week before the committee on International Human Rights and Operations. Farrakhan, a recent recipient of the NNPA's "Newsmaker of the Year" award, has been in hot water with the U.S. government since his congressional African and Middle Eastern tour which ended last month. Farrakhan met with many foes of U.S. foreign policy, including Iranian leader Mu'ammarr Qadhafi, on the tour.

Brown: Blacks must catch the business spirit

Black Americans must become part of the global marketplace, U.S. Commerce Secretary Ron Brown told the National Rainbow Coalition conference held recently in Chicago. "Political power without economic power doesn't mean a whole lot" to many, said Brown, former chairman of the Democratic National Committee. "There has to be some confluence of the two so that people understand with political power comes the ability to attain what should have been ours in the first place, to be able to participate fully in the economics of America, of the world," he said as quoted in The Chicago Daily Defender. He also said America needs to look at its racial and ethnic diversity as an asset instead of a liability.

Richmond, Va. City Council rejects plea to reconsider placement of Ashe statue

The proposal of placing a statue of tennis legend Arthur Ashe on Monument Avenue, near statues of Confederate heroes have been up for years, has been approved again by the Richmond, Va. City Council, despite objections from the city's vice mayor and other opponents that the statue's design is not of high enough quality to be placed there. The statue, created by sculptor Paul Di Pasquale, shows Ashe, hook in one hand and tennis racket in the other, with four children at his feet looking up to him. Suggested alternative sites for the statue include a proposed Black Sports Hall of Fame, or an athletic center that bears his name.

Oneonta, N.Y. university administrator who created 'black list' reinstated

Liz Hartmark, vice president for administration and finance for the State University College at Oneonta, N.Y., was recently reinstated to his post, much to the chagrin of the campus' black students. Four years ago, Hartmark, then acting president, compiled with the police a request for a list of black male students as part of a police investigation into a burglary case. The 77-year-old white female victim identified her assailant as a black male. As a result of the list, over 300 black males, Oneonta students as well as residents, were interrogated by police. Oneonta President Alan B. Donovan had removed Hartmark and placed him on unpaid leave. Donovan, who had a review of Hartmark's performance had been conducted, said the reinstatement was appropriate.

W.C. supermarkets mark checks by race, sex

Employees at several Winston-Salem, N.C. stores mark checks received by customers according to their race and gender, according to a story in The Winston-Salem Chronicle. The markings on the checks were "B.F." (Black Female), "B.M." (Black Male), among other classifications. "I'm very offended by this. I think it's a terrible thing," said LaRue P. Cunningham, a middle school teacher who had seen the newspaper copies of canceled checks she used for items at the Kroger Co. Food Mart and Stein Mart. A Kroger manager said she was following a Forsyth County Magistrate's Office policy, which was following a Forsyth County Magistrate's Office policy. Stephen Honaker said his office only requires local businesses to identify people who are suspected of writing bad checks, not placing race and gender marks on them.

Black Schools Denounce Findings In Report on School Funding

(AP) - Leaders at some of North Carolina's historically black schools are disputing a report that says they get more than their share when the University of North Carolina System divvies up money.

The report before the UNC Board of Governors identifies historically black schools as the winners and Appalachian State University, East Carolina University, UNC-Charlotte, UNC-Greensboro and UNC-Wilmington as the losers under the current funding formula.

Leaders at the historically black schools questioned the findings because the study considered only the last 25 years of funding.

The slightly larger share per student that historically black schools receive is a result of the state's attempts to remedy past inequities, they say.

Conditions at the historically black schools show that whatever money they are getting is not enough, said board member William T. Brown of Fayetteville.

"There's something terribly wrong somewhere," he said.

The study, which was ordered by the General Assembly last year, assessed the equity of the current method of distributing operating funds across the 16-campus University of North Carolina system. It will be used to develop a new funding system.

UNC system President C.D. Spangler said he does not expect the Board of Governors to cut spending at the 11 campuses identified as better off for redistribution to the underfunded campuses.

The historically black colleges are North Carolina A&T in Greensboro; North Carolina Central in Durham; Fayetteville State; Winston-Salem State and Elizabeth City State.

Consultant Kent Caruthers prepared the report and presented it to the Board of Governors on last Thursday.

Caruthers and officials from UNC General Administration visited all 16 universities in the UNC system to talk about the funding study. School officials were invited to suggest factors to be considered in a new money-distribution model.

But officials at black universities were not allowed to talk about the unequal treatment those schools received during the years of legal segregation.

The purpose of the study "was to

look at where an institution is at this point in time and exclude the possibility of some sort of reparations of past inequities," said Mickey Burnin, interim chancellor at Elizabeth City State University. "In some ways, it's sort of fixing the outcome before you do the study, unfortunately." The study was not intended to determine whether schools were getting enough money, said Kennis R. Grogan, a UNC vice president for finance. The purpose was to determine each school's level of funding in comparison with other universities.

"It was truly a look at equity as opposed to adequacy," Grogan said.

As the Board of Governors evaluates the need for funding equity, Caruthers said it should

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Black Revolutionary War Memorial Project Gets \$1.5 GM Support; Now May Beat October Deadline

By Chester Higgins, Sr.

Washington, D.C. — General Motors Corp. recently made a generous gift of \$400,000 toward the erection of a Black Patriots Revolutionary War monument on the Mall and committed itself to raising an additional \$1.1 million toward the \$6.5 million goal, the amount needed to complete the memorial project.

But it was the presentation of a \$500 check by Melanie Butler, president of the eighth grade class of Holy Redeemer school, that brought down the packed Rayburn House Office Building gathering on Capitol Hill.

Dewy-eyed participants from Wade Henderson, chief of the Washington, D.C. NAACP bureau; Rep. Donald M. Payne (D-NJ) chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus; legendary actor Ossie Davis; Reps. John Conyers, Jr. (D-MI); J. C. Watts, Jr. (R-OK) and Nancy L. Johnson (R-CT), the sculptor of Black Patriots monument, Ed Dwight, who was also the U.S.'s first black astronaut; South African Ambassador Franklin Sonn, to WLA-TV anchor Paul Berry, all stood and cheered Miss Butler and her dozen or so classmates who helped raise the money through candy sales, etc. The youngsters were accompanied by their principal, Dr. Angela M. Kittrell.

In a moving speech, Henderson told the youngsters, "Your being present at this event may not seem to be very important to you today, but when you grow up and tell your children" it will take on immense significance.

The youngsters spirit inspired Davis, who, on the spot, said he and his wife, actress Ruby Dee, would contribute \$5,000, and that the check

would be "in the mail." TV anchor Berry also pledged a "check-in-the-mail" to match the children's contribution. So did Ambassador Sonn, who stirred ripples of laughter when he added he would first have to check with his "boss" back home before he could determine the amount.

This flurry of activity in support of the Patriots Foundation is coming not a moment too soon. The Foundation has an October 1996 deadline to "demonstrate to the US Parks Service that it has the resources and wherewithal" to complete the project, said Wayne Smith, a Foundation official.

The Foundation was created in 1986 in the Reagan era of "trickle down economics that did not trickle down." Smith remarked, adding those were the days of "voodoo economics!" Intramural fighting led to a breakup and a complete reorganization of the Foundation, with the highly respected H. Minton Francis, a U.S. Military Academy graduate who has distinguished himself in education, government service as well as in the armed forces, assuming the presidency. Francis also emphasized that congressional approval for the Black Patriot Memorial site expires October, 1996. By law, he said, no federal funds can be used to construct the memorial.

The monument, dedicated to the more than 5,000 blacks who died fighting for freedom they did not then enjoy in that racially repressive Revolutionary era, will be the first black memorial situated on "sacred" ground between the Washington and Lincoln monuments on the historic Mall. Indeed, these "Black patriots fought for freedom and for rights which they did not realize until nearly a century after the revolution.

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