

The Daily Tar Heel

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For the Record

In the "Library Awareness Week" chart on page three of the March 26 DTH, an error was made in the dates and times of three events: the Continuous Reading Day featuring Ebony Readers will happen on March 28; the Read-A-Thon to benefit Friends of the

Library fund will happen on March 29; and SBP Brien Lewis will present a check for the libraries to UNC Provost Dennis O'Connor on March 30 at 11:30 a.m. at the Old Well. The DTH regrets the errors.



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IN DEPTH

Schools not educating black students

Editor's note: This is the second in a five-part series examining the issues facing Black America in the 1990s.

By **KYLE YORK SPENCER**
 Staff Writer

Educating America's Afro-American children, a subject that has been studied exhaustively over the last 20 years, remains one of the greatest paradoxes of our time because the American government has failed to act in accordance with the concern it so often expresses, said Barbara Dandridge, administrative assistant of the House Committee of Education and Labor.

Although legislators such as Senator Daniel Moynihan (D-N.Y.) have expressed concern about the subtle racism still prevalent in our educational system, very little legislation has been passed to address the problem. Disparities between the quality of education available to the black community and the quality of education available to the white community still exist, she said.

But in an environment seemingly concerned and knowledgeable about the racial problems that plague our nation, there has been far too much rhetoric and far too little action, Dandridge said.

"It is the federal role to guarantee equity in education. This is something they (federal government officials) have not done," she said.

President Bush's education initiatives continue this trend, Dandridge said. Although he supports an increase in Head Start spending, he wants to decrease overall education funding.

Analysis

Many of his programs clearly support the more advantaged, she said. His recent "educational choice" program allows parents to shop for schools for their children. This shifts the responsibility of education from the school boards to the parents, and benefits parents who have time, knowledge, and transportation. Disadvantaged students will gain few benefits from this program because their parents often have little time and little knowledge of the school system, Dandridge said.

Education spending cuts and limited funding of programs like Head Start make it clear that education is not one of America's priorities, she said. Only 1.7 percent of the federal budget is spent on education, and only 18 percent of eligible children participate in Head Start.

Sharon Robinson, director of the National Center For Innovation In Education, said the black community suffers much more than the white community when education funds are cut because although the majority of poor people are white, the majority of blacks are poor.

Schools, which are funded by state and local resources, are generally financed according to formulas which rarely take into account that schools

servicing students with more needs require more money, she said.

School districts in urban centers have far greater expenses than schools in rural areas. Furthermore, urban schools teach more challenging students. Administrators must concern themselves with health and nutrition, a safe and comfortable building, and extra resources for the neediest of students. In allocating funds, there is no extra consideration given to that fact, she said.

Schools in wealthy districts and rural areas have more than just extra money to spend on special programs for their students. Educated parents in well-to-do neighborhoods also share political power, which is extremely important in a school system that is politically controlled, Robinson said.

Problems which face public schools serving predominately black communities include high teacher turnover rates, a shortage of textbooks and a lack of after-school enrichment programs, she said.

Enrichment programs such as tutoring services, field trips and exposure to the arts are often taken for granted by middle-class Americans, Robinson said. If education is confined to the classroom, as it so often is for schools in poor districts, many students fail to be inspired, seeing no correlation between life and learning. School be-

comes a poor competitor for paying jobs, and students drop out.

For too many Afro-American students attending public schools, an inspiring teacher or an engaging class is an exception to the rule in a system that never educates them, Robinson said.

"The education system begins to fail inner-city children at a very early age," she said.

The inequalities in resources, programs and funds obviously hinder the intellectual growth of students in America's inner-city schools and poor districts, Robinson said, but providing a quality education to America's minority population is not simply a question of moral conscience.

"We need these people in the work force," she said.

George Kahdy, the educational advisor to the governor, agreed. He said North Carolina hopes to train the working poor and their children in skilled jobs, and use their skills in the state's manufacturing plants.

Through partnerships between business and government, state government is striving to encourage students to stay in school and to lower the drop-out rates among minority youth.

"Schools can't do all that families have to do. Churches have to do some also," Kahdy said. "There are all kinds of efforts, but no quick, easy solutions."

Campus Calendar

TUESDAY
 2 p.m.: UNC Symposium "Cultures on the Margin: Race, Class, Gender and Region" presents "Opening the Borders: The Cultural Politics of the Columbus Quincentenary," with Alicia Gonzalez, Smithsonian, in Toy Lounge of Dey Hall. Followed by "Becoming Marginal: Indians in the Southeastern United States," with Theda Purdie of the University of Kentucky. Call 962-0772 for more info.
 3:30 p.m.: UNC International Economics presents "Bilateral Monopoly and Domestic Contest Requirements," with John Beghin of NCSU, in 309 Gardner. Call 966-2385 for more info.
 Career Planning and Placement Services will hold a Summer Job Hunting Workshop in 306 Hanes.
 The 1990 Carolina Symposium presents Professor Burnele Powell of the UNC School of Law speaking on ethical standards in the legal profession, in 212 Union.
 4:20 p.m.: Public Policy Analysis presents Professor Feller of Penn State University, Director of the Institute for Policy Research and Evaluation, who will speak on the topic "The States as Laboratories for Federal Science Policy: Analogy and Analysis," in 102 New East.
 5 p.m.: The Network for Minority Issues and RHA present "Segregation: Is there a problem in campus housing?" in 224 Union. Bring your ideas, opinions, and friends!
 The American Society for Personnel Administration will feature the Employee Relations Representative for Duke University discussing unions in 212 Union.
 6:30 p.m.: The Order of the Bell Tower meets in 212 Union.
 The North Carolina Association of Educators Student Program presents "First Year Teachers' Panel" in 220 Peabody. Come hear about new teachers' experiences! All are welcome!
 7 p.m.: Campus Affairs Department of Student Government will hold a Transit Forum in the Morrison Rec Room. Use of the Student Transit Fees will be discussed. All are invited to attend.
 UNC Office of International Programs presents a Great Decisions Lecture, "The Palestinian Question: Is There a Solution?" with B.J. Fernex of the University of Texas-Austin, in 100 Hamilton. Call 962-0491 for more info.
 CAAs: Attention Carolina Fever Members! There will be a general meeting in 105 Gardner to discuss the remainder of spring semester. Be there!
 UCPPS announce a presentation by Price Waterhouse in the U Ballroom at the Carolina Inn and a presentation by the James R. Worrell Agency in 209 Hanes.
 7:30 p.m.: Fellowship of Christian Athletes will have a women's Bible study until 8:30 p.m. at Chapel of the Cross and a men's Bible study from 8 - 9 p.m. at Mrs. D's House.
 CGLA sponsors Lesbian Health Issues: Lesbians and their role for sexually transmitted diseases, breast cancer, depression, etc. Discussion led by Jill Duvall of the Lesbian and Gay Health Project in 218 Hanes Art Center.
 8 p.m.: The UNC Young Democrats will host a representative of NARAL, who will speak about the issue of choice in 211 Union. All interested persons are invited to attend.
 Carolina Symposium sponsors Dr. Tom Regan, international expert on animal rights, who will present his lecture "Animal Rights and Human Wrongs," in Gerard Hall.
ITEMS OF INTEREST
 Information on Academic Credit for Internships (SPCL 91P-4) is available at UCPPS. Deadline for applying is April 2.
 Applications for the Undergraduate Court and the Attorney General's staff are available in Suite D, Suite C and at the main desk in the Union. Applications are due March 30, 1990.

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Sign up for an interview with a Peace Corps recruiter at Hanes Hall for interviews to be held March 27-29 from 9 am until 4:30 pm.

If you have any questions, a recruiter will be at the Student Center, Main Floor from 9 am until 3 pm, March 27-29.

Come see a film about Peace Corps, March 28th starting at 6:30 pm in Hanes Hall, Room 209.

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