

**RESIDENTS SAY:**

**HUMAN NEEDS SHOULD COME FIRST**

Human needs before beautification and historic preservation was the message the people gave to the Durham City Council Monday evening at the Community Development Public Hearing held at the Central Civic Center.

Several hundred citizens applauded speakers' appeals and questioning of proposals to spend \$150,000 to restore West Point Mill when street lights, attention to crime prevention and services to the elderly and the young, and sidewalks needed adequate funding.

The third year budget of the Community Development Program was criticized strongly.

The \$850,000 carryover from the second year budget was severely criticized in view of inadequate response or no response from City Hall on appeals of years standing.

William Patterson, representing the Crest Street Community, cited some 16 years of petitioning for recreation facilities for the

Crest Street area. "You've been telling me for ten years that an expressway was coming through our area," said Patterson, "but we're going to the streets if we don't get some results, expressway or no expressway."

Representing the Durham Committee on the Affairs of Black People, J. H. Wheeler noted that the city has not complied with fair employment practices to make it eligible for CD funds. The Durham Committee supported the CDC recommendation for sidewalks for the Crest Street area and recommended sidewalks on the east side of Roxboro Street from Dallas to Erie for the Spaulding School children; to extend sidewalks on the west side of Alston Avenue to the Shepard Junior High students; Liberty Street from Elizabeth, being an outlet from Durham to Wake Forest, and Roxboro Rd., should be paid for from City funds. The Committee also supported the expansion of the

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**A&T University Dedicates Electronic Center, A First For Black Universities**

GREENSBORO — The first major electronics research center to be located at a predominately black university was dedicated recently at North Carolina A&T State University.

The laboratory dedication was attended by a number of key representatives from NASA, Rockwell International, Cornell University and the North Carolina State University system. Gallium arsenide solar cells fabricated with materials grown in the new laboratory were displayed after the dedication.

The laboratory was established through a grant from Rockwell International and the Research will be funded by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

Dr. James C. Fletcher, Administrator of NASA said at the ceremony, "One of the real pleasures I have had as Administrator of NASA has been to provide the means for talented people to make their contributions to our nation's space program and thus to mankind."

The Space Agency provided \$150,000 through its Langley Research Center and Rockwell International provided nearly \$250,000 in laboratory equipment. NASA is also providing an additional \$30,000 to A&T for a feasibility study on experimental research in Curriculum Sharing via Communication Technology Satellites. The focus of this second grant is to establish

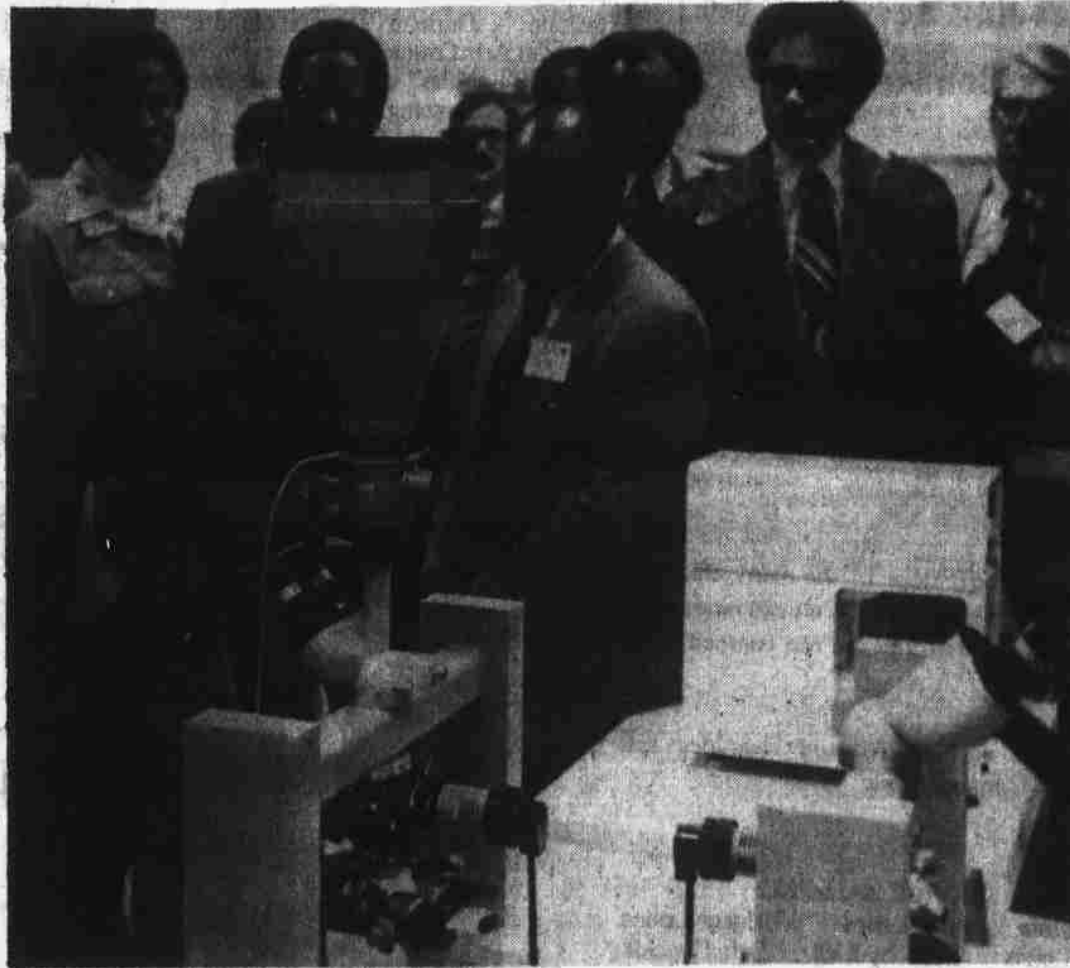
a curriculum sharing process among institutions having large minority enrollments.

According to NASA, a

similar grant will be made later this year to Howard University to conduct research in microwave electronics.



**SOLID STATE LAB UNVEILED** -- Cutting the ribbon at the new Rockwell solid state laboratory at A&T are (left to right) Robert Anderson, president of Rockwell International; Dr. William Friday, president of the University of North Carolina; and Dr. Lewis C. Dowdy, chancellor of A&T. (Photo by William Peeler).



**SAMPLE WORK** -- Dr. Donald Hearth, Director of NASA's Langley Research Center looks at a sample of work being done in unique research laboratory at North Carolina A&T State University.

**Board To Use Black Firms**

By Warren D. Blackshear  
As a result of last Monday's Durham City Board of Education action, Parrish Street, traditionally the center of black financial firms, will be getting a greater share of the local educational dollar. In two separate actions with no dissenting votes, the board approved Garrett Sullivan and Company, a black certified accountant firm headed by Nathan T. Garrett and Dewitt Sullivan, to serve as accountants for the school system; and

approved Mechanics and Farmers Bank, a full service black bank headed by John H. Wheeler, to share equally with four other banks on a two-year revolving basis as a depository for the systems' local current expense and capital outlay funds and school food service

funds.

The new accountant firm acquired the contract which was formerly held by Rices Nelson Gantt and Company, a firm located on Crossdale Drive. The previous firm received about \$14,000 for services provided to the city school system last year.

The addition of Mechanics and Farmers Bank to the list of bank depositories was an action initiated by the board. Originally the administration's recommended list only included Central Carolina Bank, First Union National Bank, North Carolina National Bank and Wachovia Bank and Trust Company.

According to Richard Barber, Assistant Superintendent for Business, it is estimated that the black owned bank will now share in the account which handles about seven million dollars a year.

On the educational front, the board received suggestions and commendations from the community based groups to improve the quality of education, yet failed to mention or take action to improve drop out problem which is reported by the highest in the state of North Carolina.

The board of education received a final report from the 53 member Citizens' Steering Committee as presented by Dr. Max B. Rogers, co-chairperson, in the absence of co-chairman A. H. Howard Clement, III.

The report contained more than 50 recommendations or changes without ever once mentioning the committee's purpose, the existing problems or those they were trying to address, or their rationale to arrive at their massive recommendation list. The initial report was issued ten weeks after the committee's first

meeting. The report by the lay group, meeting on an average of once a week, contained unsupported recommendations which could cost taxpayers up to five million dollars.

Some of the recommendations included

- \* construction of a four year comprehensive high school which would replace both Durham High and Hillside High Schools
- \* purchasing 12 new buses
- \* the addition of physical education teachers for all elementary schools
- \* mandatory individual parent-teacher conferences be held twice a year.

In a brief presentation, Jr. David Ross, of the Greater Durham Chamber of Commerce presented a resolution unanimously approved by the Chamber Board of Directors which offered special

commendation to John Lucas, principal, and the faculty of Hillside High School for "developing a flexible curriculum which endeavors to meet the needs of a diverse student population."

The chamber statement said that this bold program allows students to select within a given framework, semester courses based on their interest and ability which results in each student having the opportunity to develop a program which is challenging and allows them to reach their full learning potential. In a show of support the statement concluded "the Chamber would like to state its steadfast support for the adoption of new and dynamic program ideas which will insure that every Durham City student reaches his full learning potential; and to that end, we pledge our cooperation."

avoid that . . . So often we worry about that and its a proper concern but we aren't worrying enough about those children who aren't learning, that's what I want to get at."

According to Hunt any student who received a diploma after 1978 would be required to pass a standardized test developed by an 11 member commission appointed by the governor. Hunt said that students failing the test when first administered their junior year in high school would take the test again their senior year. Passing the test would allow the student upon passing other requirements to graduate with a high school diploma. He said that stu-

dents not passing the test but passing other requirements for graduation would be likely to be given some kind of certificate.

The bill would exclude, however, children who are placed in special education programs or "who have been officially designated as eligible for participation in such programs."

Most special education classes have higher percentages of black and poor children whose cultural backgrounds are different from many of the researchers and scholars at Princeton University, where most of the educational tests for the nation are designed. Many test, produced by

Princeton including the National Teachers Exam (NTE) have been the subject of controversy because of claims that the tests are racist. Critics say disproportionate number of blacks fail the test and there has been no correlation of a teacher's score on the test and the teacher's performance in the classroom. The test is the subject of current litigation in the courts.

Both pieces of legislation are co-signed by Senators Alford Stallings, White, Lake, Winters, Wynne, Vickery, Marion, Webster, and Barnes. John Winters, who represents Wake, Harnett, and Lee Counties, is the only black

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