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Busing Students Fails To Erase Last Vestiges Of Segregation

CHARLOTTE (AP) — Although the Charlotte-Mecklenburg school system's attempts at desegregation through busing have been largely successful, classes still are racially imbalanced between classes for gifted students and those for slow learners, officials say.

"We've come a long way in terms of desegregation," said Arthur Griffin, a former school board member and advocate for black children. "But once those kids go through the schoolhouse door, they become segregated."

Throughout the system's 10 high schools, no matter what the racial breakdown of the individual school, this pattern emerges: Academically gifted classes are mostly white. Skills classes for slow learners are mostly black. Systemwide, the percentage of black youngsters classified as gifted and talented was 10% in 1986, school officials say.

"If you went into a academically gifted class, you would see two or three black students, some Asian students, and you would see white students," said Frank Rozzelle, principal of East Mecklenburg High, where 19% of the students are black.

"If you went into a chemistry class, you would see about five black students," Rozzelle said. Then, if you went into the general math classes, you would see a class of predominantly black students."

Some black parents say capable black students are not encouraged to take the most challenging courses, to work toward membership in the honor society or to participate in student government.

"I really believe that the school system can do something more," said Mildred Baxter-Davis, a board member of Allies for

Quality and Equity in Education, an advocacy group of about 30 black parents formed this year to help black children.

"We have to do a little bit more than is required in the classroom to pull these children out who have not had the proper home environment and give them extra encouragement," Ms. Baxter-Davis said.

"Something is wrong with our system if you can educate white children and you can't educate blacks — and you are not educating blacks when you don't allow them into certain clubs or to get certain honors or to take certain classes," she said.

The problem, educators say, is larger than the school system. It is the problem of a society where blacks generally are economically and socially more disadvantaged than whites. They are behind

even before they begin school.

"Not every black youngster is behind, but many are," said Deputy Supt. Robert Hanes. "Two things are directly related to youngsters' achievement: the education of the parent, particularly the mother, and the socioeconomic level of the family. Black youngsters often start off behind, and closing the gap is extremely difficult."

Geneva Smith, a ninth grader at East Mecklenburg High School, is an example of a student who started in the academic mainstream only to become discouraged in an algebra class in which most students were white.

"Everybody in there was smarter than me," she told *The Charlotte Observer*.

Geneva transferred into general math. Now she's in the

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EDUCATIONAL DISCUSSION — Dr. John H. Lucas, a long-time educator and president of Shaw University, discusses education, particularly in the historically black college, with First Lady Nancy Reagan. The two conversed recently during a United Negro College Fund meeting in Kansas City, Mo.

Fayetteville Businessman Marion 'Rex' Harris May Run For Lt. Governor

FAYETTEVILLE (AP) — A black Fayetteville businessman says he is considering running for lieutenant governor if another black former state Sen. John Winters decides not to enter the race.

Marion "Rex" Harris told *The Fayetteville Observer* four political action committees have urged him to enter the race, although he declined to identify the PACs.

"I think it's time for a statewide black elected official," Harris said. "If John Winters will not run, I'm 90% sure I will."

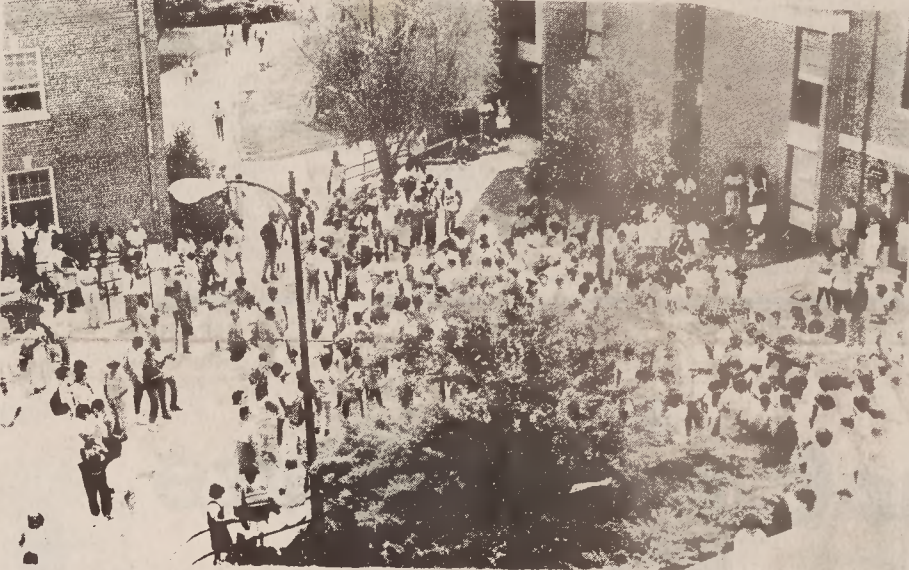
Winters, who represented Harnett, Lee and Wake counties in the Senate, "I haven't decided to jump in unless there is ade-

quate funding and assurance of that."

The field of possible candidates already includes Sens. Tony Rand, D-Cumberland, and Harold Hardison, D-Lenoir; Rep. Jim Crawford, D-Granville, and former Rep. Park Helms of Charlotte.

Harris, a Republican in the mid-70s and a member of the state Board of Transportation, switched to the Democratic Party in 1976 and served as state campaign manager for Rev. Jesse Jackson in 1984.

Harris said he favors eliminating runoff elections because they discriminate against minorities. He also said he would like to shift more state money to traditionally black universities.



NCCU STUDENTS hold demonstration this week during Trustee Board meeting outside of the Jones Building in the cause of increasing security on campus.

White Supremacist

Glenn Miller Reportedly Will Plead Guilty To Weapons Charge

SPRINGFIELD, MO. (AP) — Former White Patriot Party leader Glenn Miller, indicted on a weapons charge by a federal grand jury in Springfield, is expected to plead guilty to the offense, federal prosecutors said. Miller, 46, is charged with one count of illegal possession of a handgun. He was indicted Tuesday.

He will be allowed to plead guilty under an agreement set up

by the U.S. Attorney's office in Raleigh, N.C., said U.S. Attorney Mike Jones in Springfield.

"Miller will plead guilty to this (weapons) offense in North Carolina, under a process called a Rule 20 transfer," Jones said.

Jones explained that the agreement means Miller will not be returned to Springfield for sentencing. But Jones said Miller may come back to the Ozarks to testify against fellow white

supremacists.

The plea agreement recommends a five-year sentence for Miller. The weapons charge carries a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison, along with a \$250,000 fine. Jones said no sentencing date has been set.

Miller and two other men were arrested when federal agents stormed a trailer home in Ozark, Mo., in April.

Eight of the nine counts hand-

ed down Tuesday named the two other men, Robert Jackson, 26, and Douglas Sheets, 30.

The indictment charged that Jackson and Sheets conspired with Miller between March 31 and April 30 to possess various illegal firearms, Jones said. The weapons included machine guns, sawed-off shotguns, a silencer device, hand grenades and other explosives.

Jones said Jackson and Sheets

also were charged with conspiring to kill blacks and Jews during the same period.

Miller already stands convicted of operating a paramilitary organization in defiance of a federal judge's order.

He was free on bond pending an appeal, but authorities issued an arrest warrant after they realized Miller had left his Hillsville, Va., home.

A nationwide search for Miller

was launched when he mailed a "Declaration of War" letter to several media organizations. The letter called on white supremacists to launch a war against blacks, Jews and government officials.

Miller, Sheets and Jackson were arrested a week later at the rented trailer home near Ozark, Mo.

Sullivan Calls For Aid To Poor, Unity Between Races

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Leon Sullivan, known as a champion for the rights of black Americans, called on U.S. leaders Tuesday night to address poverty and racial inequality at the Bicentennial.

Sullivan, a Philadelphia pastor, wrote the Sullivan Principles, which he told an audience of 3,000 people that "de facto" segregation of schools continues and the economic gap between blacks and whites was widening.

From this historic place," Sullivan said from the Constitution Pavilion on Independence Avenue, "I call on the President of the United States, Mr. Ronald Reagan, to provide the leadership and to place as much emphasis on helping the poor and on helping the races as he does on the Persian Gulf crisis."

Sullivan punctuated

Sullivan's speech to a crowd assembled for an interfaith Bicentennial Convocation that celebrated constitutional guarantees of religious freedom.

In June, Sullivan denounced as ineffective the principles he announced in 1978 as employment guidelines for U.S. companies operating in South Africa. The principles were designed to help erode the apartheid social system of segregation.

During his impassioned, 15-minute speech, Sullivan concentrated on domestic issues.

"In the area of race relations, America has a job to do," Sullivan said. "The division between black and white is growing deeper and deeper every day."

Sullivan said the 13th, 14th and 15th amendments to the Constitution, written after the Civil War to abolish slavery and give blacks equal protection under the law, had yet to be realized.

"The words of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution have not been realized, yet the spirit of what they say still holds true for the survival of America."

Sullivan also recalled the lack of aid for the poor.

"If we can put men on the moon, we can put poor people on their feet in the cities of America," he said. "Something is wrong. We are forgetting the little people of America."

More than 1,000 people walked with candles from 12 nearby churches to the pavilion as part of the convocation.

Farrakhan to Speak In Los Angeles Despite Controversy

LOS ANGELES, CALIF. — Black Muslim minister Louis Farrakhan has announced that his

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WASHINGTON — With Judge Robert Bork seated alongside, former President Gerald Ford (l) testifies on the former's behalf at the start of confirmation hearings before the Senate Judiciary Committee. Ford said Bork is "uniquely qualified to sit on the Supreme Court." (UPI Photo)