



## Census Bureau report indicates that Afro-Americans are reducing the educational gap

The gap between the proportions of Afro-Americans and Whites completing high school narrowed substantially since 1940, according to a report by the Commerce Department's Census Bureau.

About 81 percent of Afro-Americans and 87 percent of Whites aged 25 to 29 were high

school graduates in 1985. The proportions in 1940, when the bureau began gathering such statistics, were 12 percent for Afro-Americans and 41 percent for Whites.

For the population aged 25 and over in 1940, the proportion of White high school graduates was 3.4 times greater than for Afro-Americans, 26 percent compared

with 7 percent. The ratio in 1985 was 1.3, with 76 percent for Whites and 60 percent for Afro-Americans.

The report notes that in 1940, Whites were four times as likely as Afro-Americans to have completed college compared with twice as likely in 1985. The proportions were 5 percent for Whites and 1 percent for Afro-American in 1940

compared with 20 percent and 11 percent in 1985.

As in all surveys, the data in this report are subject to sampling variability and response error.

The attached charts show percentages of Afro-Americans and Whites completing high school from 1940 to 1985.

## Housing debate From Page A1

"I'm concerned about the extra money they will have to spend," Womble said of the effect on tenants. "It's a burden on citizens. The housing authority is supposed to be helping those low to moderate-income people."

Estelle Nelson, a tenant at Highland Homes, is plagued with eye problems and not able to see well enough to fill out money orders and keep track of her receipts. She said that when she took her cash for her rent payment to the manager's office, she was told that cash was no longer accepted. She said she misplaced the cash while she was waiting for someone to come and assist her with obtaining a money order.

"I was real worried last week because I had the money ready and they said they weren't taking it," Nelson said. "I can't see and I have to wait for my niece to come and fix a money order for me. If I send it and they don't get it, I get nervous."

Kate Mewhinney of the Legal Aid Society of Northwest North Carolina Inc. said her office had received calls from "numerous" clients and that her office would be looking into the legality of the new policy.

"A lot of people have contacted us about this and we're going to investigate it," she said. "It's not a good thing, many of our clients don't have any way to get these money orders or checks. We're protesting this, we're very concerned and many of our clients have called us about it and they are upset."

Thompkins, who said he had received only one negative response about the policy from ten-

ants, said the policy was implemented solely as a means of decreasing the incentive for criminals to rob the units' offices of cash. He said that cash was removed from the offices daily by armored car but "that anything can happen between the time the office opens and the time that the armored car comes." Although he could cite no specific instances of previous robberies, Thompkins said the housing authority's board felt it was better to take measures that would prevent any future burglaries and harm to the authority's staff in the offices.

"We're trying to head off something we foresee," said Thompkins. "We don't want our staff to get shot or killed. It's more of a preventive measure because it doesn't take but one time for someone to get hurt. We're trying to look to the future."

While upgrading current security in the units' offices may seem an obvious solution, Thompkins said such a move would only serve to overrun the housing authority budget and that it was never presented as a viable option.

"We didn't want to increase the budget. It would have increased the budget to do that," Thompkins said of the possibility of increasing security at the units. "I didn't discuss that with the board."

Womble said the authority's failure to consider improving its security needlessly taxes tenants and that "if they're (the housing authority) having problems, they ought not to pass them on to the tenants."

"I understand his (Thompkins') concern but they will only

pass their problems and the cost on to the poor people he's supposed to be serving," Womble said. "They need to look for another alternative."

McClemmon, too, feels that alternatives to the new policy should have been considered.

"They're trying to get out easy," he said of the housing authority and its new payment policy. "There are other places they could open up to receive payments and make it safer with more security. That would be better."

Thompkins said the authority will provide transportation to tenants who need to purchase money orders. He said also that the new policy will "free up managers to work on other programs and have more involvement with the tenants." Thompkins remains optimistic about the potential for increased security which he says the new policy provides, and he said he is encouraged by the positive reaction he has received from tenants.

"The tenants have been really cooperative, and it makes you feel good," said Thompkins, noting that he had met with nearly 1,000 tenants during meetings to explain the new policy. "I think our tenants are being underestimated by some of the community people who are making comments about them. They're (the tenants) really giving us their cooperation."

Robert W. Fields, the director of housing management for the regional Housing and Urban Development office in Greensboro, said that the agency has no specific requirements or policies with

## Play From Page A8

comes from, when I see actors of different races playing together every day."

Mrs. Batchelor said she had a number of reasons for denying Miss Massey a role in the scene.

The primary reason, Mrs. Batchelor said, is that only one male actor was available for the Camelot scene, which has two male roles.

"The scene called for two male

parts, and we just did not have enough male participation," Mrs. Batchelor said.

She said similar casting difficulties had prompted cancellation of other scenes as well. The production required some typecasting, she said.

"Our dinner theater is paying tribute to past performers, in productions done at Jacksonville High School," she said. "The girl who

played Guinevere in the past was not black, she was fair-skinned with brown hair."

Jacksonville High School Assistant Principal Jim Collins said he knows of no racial problems at the school.

"Our school has quite a number of kids who date interracially, and no one is bothered by that," he said.

Look No More -- "The Ultimate"

**SUPER INNER MAN™** **KINGS INNER WOMAN™**

HIGH POTENCY FORMULA!

IRON, GINSENG, VITAMIN E, & ZINC

NATURES HELPER

FOR TODAY'S PEOPLE ON-THE-GO!

**MODEL PHARMACY**

724-5052 1225 E. Fifth St. 723-7332

*Davis*

downtown: 9:30-5:30  
thruway & reynolda: 9:00-9:00

DOWNTOWN • THRUWAY • REYNOLDA MANOR  
VISIT US OR TELEPHONE: DIAL 721-7400

**pyrex Clear Advantage**  
THE CLEAR NON-STICK GLASS BAKEWARE BY CORNING

4<sup>19</sup> - 11<sup>99</sup>

What's the clear advantage? Glass is the material preferred by 2 out of 3 consumers. Invisi-Clean NON-STICK Coating provides easy, convenient clean-up. Clear glass is equally at home in the oven, freezer, refrigerator or microwave. It allows monitoring of cooking makes an attractive serving dish for any occasion. It's clearly an advantage, so come in and see what's cooking at Corning and at Davis!

davis home stores

downtown: 9:30-5:30  
thruway & reynolda: 9-9  
sundays 1:00-6:00

*Davis*

DOWNTOWN • THRUWAY • REYNOLDA MANOR  
VISIT US OR TELEPHONE: DIAL 721-7400

**wow**  
WITH-OUT-WIRE BRA

wonderful winter sale ...  
Save now on these more comfortable underwire bras. During our winter sale, all WOW bras, Right For Me bras and Natural Accent panties are 25% off. Sizes range from hard-to-fit 32 nearly A to 38 nearly B to 42DD in bras and S-2XL in panties. White, beige or winter colors.

**25% OFF**  
VALUES TO 18.00

*Playtex*  
LIMITED

davis foundations