

'White flight' remains an issue for public schools, study shows



A new study says all-black schools are becoming common because of white flight.

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

DURHAM - "White flight" - the exit from or avoidance of racially mixed public schools - was as strong a phenomenon in the 1990s as it was when first identified in the 1970s, a new study shows.

The study, "Are Whites Fleeing? Racial Patterns and Enrollment Shifts in Urban Public Schools, 1987-1996," was conducted by Charles T. Clotfelter, Z. Smith Reynolds Professor of Public Policy Studies and professor of economics at Duke University. The study appears in the spring 2001 Journal of

Policy Analysis and Management.

"We know from other studies that racial contact in schools may affect such things as the level and distribution of academic achievement in the population, racial attitudes, subsequent social and economic outcomes of students, and patterns of racial integration," Clotfelter said in an interview. "Given the importance of those issues, I wanted to evaluate the current status of segregation in urban public schools and, in particular, whether the phenomenon of 'white flight' still existed."

Analyzing detailed, school-by-

school data from 1987 and 1996 in 238 metropolitan areas across the country, Clotfelter found that white losses in enrollment "arise not only when white families move from one district to another or enroll in private schools, but also when they simply avoid moving into districts with high interracial contact." The study found this to be "remarkably consistent in large and small districts in both large and small metropolitan

"Immigration and differences in birth rates are resulting in faster growth in school-age populations of both blacks and Hispanics than whites," he wrote. The result: The student population in the average public school is becoming increasingly non-white. Other trends include school district consolidation, the overall increase in interracial contact and an accompanying decline in racial prejudice, as docu-

ment by annual surveys of high school seniors through the Monitoring the Future project.

Overall, Clotfelter's study found that "public schools in metropolitan areas became more segregated between 1987 and 1996, and the picture that arises is one of entrenched segregation, caused mainly by racial disparities among districts rather than segregation within school districts, and steady increases in segregation."

"The rate of white loss is affected by the push of exposure to non-whites as well as the attraction of more predominantly white districts elsewhere in the same metropolitan area," the study concluded. "Since segregation within districts by 1996 was rather mild in most districts, the

key element in predicting whether whites would rapidly abandon central city districts is the size and homogeneity of all districts in the metropolitan area."

Given the implications of decisions of households for the racial composition and segregation of the public schools, research on this topic remains as important today as it was two decades ago, Clotfelter noted.

"We know from other studies that racial contact in schools may affect such things as the level and distribution of academic achievement..."

- Charles Clotfelter

areas," and not just in central city districts.

The study addressed several questions, including:

Are interracial contact and segregation increasing or decreasing?

Is there evidence that the South, with previous patterns deeply influenced by legal segregation in schools, is evincing patterns increasingly similar to those in the North?

In analyzing the data, Clotfelter wrote, "It is important to be aware of the broader patterns and trends in metropolitan areas," including the fact that much of the existing school segregation in metropolitan areas is associated with segregated housing patterns, and that the racial and ethnic composition of the school-age population is changing.

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Women Called According to His Purpose

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

On behalf of Pastor Philemon A. Samuels and the Goodwill Baptist Church family, we invite you to our upcoming Women Called According to His Purpose Conference 2001. The conference will be Thursday, April 26, through Saturday, April 28. The theme for the conference is "I See Myself There."

The Daughters of Deborah Women's Ministry is truly excited about this year's conference.

Conference speakers and teachers:

- Pastor P.A. Samuels, pastor of Goodwill Baptist Church, Arcadia, N.C., will minister at the Saturday afternoon closing session titled "Ministering with Excellence."

- Prophetess Gloria Samuels, first lady and director of church ministries of Goodwill Baptist Church, will be the Thursday evening speaker.

- Annie Hinnant, pastor of Power of Praise Tabernacle of Deliverance of Benson, N.C., will be the Friday evening speaker.

- Kay Twombly, international speaker/counselor from Dillon, S.C., author of the book "Where Was God When I Cried?"

- Mary Cayton will do prayer counsel. She is the regional prayer coordinator for the Women of the Word Conference for Black Mountain. She lives in New Bern.

- Cassandra McCloud will be the guest psalmist.

- Leticha Coleman, Goodwill Baptist Church corporate director of church finances.

- Dr. Karen Williams and Pas-



Pastor and First Lady Samuels

tor Jackie Shaw of Truth Tabernacle of Rocky Mount.

The schedule: Thursday and Friday - 5:30 p.m., on-site registration; 6 p.m., prayer counsel; 7 p.m., evening worship service; 7, prayer counsel and seminars.

Seminar topics include: Help Me Control My Finances; Breaking Through to the Realm of Impossibilities; Oh, God, Help Me Understand This Body; What is the Ministry of a First Lady?; Filling in the Cracks of Your Faith; If I Pray, Will God Hear Me?

Registration is \$35 and includes all nightly services, all classes on Saturday. Saturday also will have a continental breakfast and lunch.

To register, call the church at (336) 764-3930.

Goodwill Baptist Church is a full-service ministry that believes in reaching, healing and teaching the people of God so they can fulfill their God-given destiny. We are building ministries that build peo-

ple who lift Jesus.

Directions to the church from Winston-Salem or Greensboro: I-40 to Exit 192 (Peters Creek Parkway/Highway 150). Take Peters Creek Parkway South (Highway 150 West) into Davidson County.

Travel approximately three miles past Hickory Tree Crossing Shopping Center to Twin Brook Drive (at top of hill Masonic lodge on the corner). Turn right. Go one block to Goodwill Road. Turn right. Road will lead to church.

Winston Lake Family YMCA 4th Annual Black Achievers in Business & Industry Awards Gala Thursday, May 10, 2001 - M.C. Benton Convention Center - 6:30 pm

W. David Shannon
JDL Castle Corporation
Corporate Co-Chair



GALA SPEAKER:
Herman Boone
"Remember the Titans"



The movie, "Remember the Titans," is based on a true story about Herman Boone. In 1971 Boone was brought to Alexandria, Virginia to coach a newly integrated high school football team. What is remarkable is how Boone brought his players, both black and white, together as a team.

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The Black Achievers Program is a multi-racial effort to promote career exploration and academic enhancement among middle and high school students. The program concentrates on creating an on-going interaction between youth and adult role models.

GALA HONOREES ADULT ACHIEVERS

Adult Achievers have been selected by their companies for their contributions to the success of the business and to the community. They will serve as role models for youth and provide support for the Black Achievers Program.

TEEN ACHIEVER HONOREES

Teen Achievers are high school seniors who have actively participated in the Black Achievers Program. They have demonstrated a desire to succeed, commitment to scholastic achievement and excellent character.



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Opportunity follows struggle. It follows effort. It follows hard work. It doesn't come before.
- Shelby Steele, 1991



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