

# Mrs. Cousar Supports

## Optional School Concept

By Sidney Moore, Jr.  
Post Staff Writer

A greater emphasis on discipline and basic learning skills such as reading, writing and mathematics is the characteristic difference between an optional traditional school and a conventional school.

Mrs. Dorothy Cousar of 1509 Chelveston has three children in the optional traditional school at Myers Park Elementary School. She has one child in a conventional school and insists that she "can see the results" that optional traditional schools have to offer.

Because she thinks the job an optional traditional school does in teaching children what she thinks they should be learning, Mrs. Cousar is working with a parent group to get the School Board to establish an optional traditional junior high school and an additional optional tradi-

tional elementary school. The parent group wants to get enough applications from students and their parents to get the board to reconsider the proposal for additional optional traditional schools.

The board had set March 1 as a deadline for applications to the optional traditional program. At that time, not enough applications were submitted for the board to add the new junior high and elementary school programs. But supporters of the program have not yet given up their effort.

Parents supporting optional traditional schools have set March 27, as their deadline to get more applications so that they can again ask the board to reconsider additional programs. Mrs. Cousar advises students and parents who want to apply for an optional traditional school program to get an application from any school in the district or from

the education center.

She said several parents in her group are willing to provide information on the program to those interested. Mrs. Cousar can be contacted at 332-6370. Other parent counselors are Mrs. Betty Collins, 364-2066 and Mrs. Barbara Long, 364-3315.

Because the board has adopted a guideline that optional traditional schools must have a 25 per cent black student ratio, the parent group is especially interested in getting black students to apply for the optional traditional school program. Under this restriction, three white students can be accepted in the program for every black student who elects to enter the program.

According to an administrative official with the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School district, the school board ultimately want the ratio of black-to-white students to vary no more than 8 percent from the overall ratio of black-to-white students within the district.

This means the fate of optional traditional schools, more-or-less, rests in the hands of black students and parents. If enough black students apply for the program, the board may reconsider establishing a junior high school optional traditional program for next year and possibly an additional elementary school program.

As it presently stands, Myers Park Elementary School remains the only school in the school district with an optional traditional school program.



**BEARS CHEERLEADER**

Attractive Patricia Ann Howie, a 19-year-old sophomore major at Livingstone college is an enthusiastically, energetic second-year cheerleader for the football and basketball "Fighting Bears" at the Salisbury, N.C. college. A native of Monroe, N.C., "Pat" is a 1974 graduate of Monroe High School. The 5-3 lass in a "dy-no-mite" exhorter of the "Bears" and fans at Livingstone. She is the oldest of three youngsters born to Mrs. Annie Mae Howie of 312 Green Street, Monroe. Extra-curricularly, "Pat" is a member of the Prayer Meeting Choir, Sweetheart of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., and chairperson of student activity. A Leo, her hobbies are dancing, singing, and getting to know different people. (LC Photo by Kelsey)

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# To School Of His Choice Eric W. Law Wins Four-Year National Achievement Scholarship

Eric W. Law of 2937 Botany St. has won a four-year \$1,000 scholarship to the school of his choice from the National Achievement Scholarship Program.



**Eric W. Law  
...Brilliant Student**

The 17 year-old is the first Black graduate from the Charlotte County Day School. He is interested in psychology as a potential major in college and he has several awards for his participation in his school activities.

He won the 1975 Harvard Book Award and has received two awards from the American Association of Teachers of French. Eric serves as treasurer of the National Honor Society at his school, is co-president of the Latin Club, a sports editor of the school newspaper called "Monitor," a member of the Frnch Club and is active in the athletic program.

The young scholar plays on the tennis team and has varsity letters in track and soccer.

Scholarship awards of this type were given to 135 minority students around the country. Another 298 awards are made on a one-time nonrenewable basis. The awards are valued at \$1 million and most are underwritten by businesses, industrial firms, foundations and professional associations.

The scholarship Eric is receiving was underwritten by PPG Industries Foundation.

pendis average about \$1,375 per year, or \$5,500 over the four college years. Recipients of four-year Achievement Scholarships are chosen from a pool of Achievement Program Finalists who meet preferential criteria specified by the organizations providing support for these awards, for this reason, four-year scholarships are awarded without regard to regional or geographic distribution of the winners. Corporate-sponsored four-year Achievement Scholarships are generally designated for Finalists who reside in areas where the company has operations, those who plan to pursue particular fields of study the sponsor wished to encourage, or Achievement Program Finalists who are children of employees of the organization underwriting the award.

Over 50,000 black students, mostly high school juniors enrolled in more than 6,000 schools, entered the 1976 Achievement Scholarship competition by taking the 1974 Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test-National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT-NMSQT) and indicating their desire to participate. The highest scoring black students in each of the geographic regions established for the competition were designated Semifinalists. The names of about 1,450 Achievement Program Semifinalists were announced nationwide in October 1975. By meeting further requirements, over 1,100 of the Semi-

finalists advanced to Finalist standing and qualified to be considered for Achievement Scholarships.

In addition to the winners being named today, about 100 black students will be named Achievement Scholars later this spring. Most will receive a third type of award offered annually; winners will be announced on an individual basis between mid-May and early June. Some 35 colleges and universities are expected to sponsor four-year Achievement Scholarships for black students who attained Achievement Program Finalist standing and who plan to enroll at a sponsoring institution next fall.

The Achievement Program was created in 1964 by a Ford Foundation grant to NMSC for the specific purpose of identifying academically able black students and making college scholarships available to the most outstanding among them. Between 1965 and 1975, Achievement Scholarships were awarded to over 3,800 black students; of these, about one-half have now completed college study and some 1,700 are currently attending more than 300 U.S. institutions of higher education.

At the completion of the eleventh (1975) annual competition, funds totaling \$11.3 million had been expended or committed for Achievement Scholarships, of which Achievement Program sponsor support represented 65 percent.

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### League Of Women

### Will Consider

### Energy Problems

A self-contained house that produces its own energy as well as handles its own waste disposal and water treatment may be one solution to the energy crisis. Such a proposal, drastically changing life styles, and other alternatives to the energy problems will be considered at meeting of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg League of Women Voters March 23-25.

Study groups will meet Tuesday, at 9:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. at the League office.



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