

Business In The Black

Article Says Court Desegregation Decision Affected Birthrates

By Richard Bierck
Special to the Post
Chapel Hill -- The Supreme Court's 1954 ruling that blacks and whites attending public schools must be educated together resulted in a significant drop in childbearing among Southern whites, according to an article by sociology professors at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

The article, to be published Friday (July 14) in "Science," a Washington-based weekly journal, says that while fertility rates in the nation as a whole increased between 1954 and 1955, they decreased for several months in nine of the 11 former Confederate states—all but North Carolina and Florida, where white births increased.

The article was written by Dr. Ronald R. Rindfuss, assistant professor of sociology,

Dr. Shelton Reed, associate professor and doctoral candidate Craig St. John.

It says the decrease in Southern white births began about 12 months after the court ruling, "...at almost the exact time we would predict, assuming the court's decision demoralized prospective parents enough to cause some who would otherwise have stopped contracepting to continue and to cause some who had not been contracepting to start."

In "A Fertility Reaction to a Historical Event: Southern White Birthrates and the 1954 Desegregation Ruling," the authors say birth records show the drop to be about 5 percent. This is a significant decrease, they say, since the increase in white births in the South the year before was nearly three times that of the nation as a whole.

The article says there is a striking coincidence in the birthrates of states affected by the court decision and those not affected.

On May 17, 1954, the Supreme Court ruled in the case of Brown vs. the Topeka, Kansas, Board of Education, that the segregation of blacks and whites in public schools was unconstitutional. In doing so, the court struck down a previous ruling that separate schools for blacks and whites were legal so long as the educations they received were equal.

"It is clear that the court's unanimous decision struck at what many white Southerners saw as the basis of their region's way of life, and it came as a shock to many Southerners," the article says. "It seems reasonable, therefore, to entertain the conjecture that anomie (social

disorientation) and fear for the future led some Southerners to put off having children."

The article says that any decisions by couples to continue or begin contracepting would not have been made the day after the ruling, "that it took a while for the implications of the decision to sink in."

But the downturn that began in June 1955 did not last long, they say. White Southern births were increasing rapidly again in August and September.

The decrease was short-lived, the article suggests, because white Southerners realized that "nothing was going to change anytime soon."

"After it became clear that segregation would continue for some time... (couples) would have resumed their

normal fertility behavior and the Southern white birthrate would resume its increase," the article says.

Black births followed a similar, though less pronounced, pattern, the article says. "...The slighter drop among blacks seem consistent with the hypothesis: while black Southerners also experienced

uncertainty in the wake of the court's ruling (their traditional pattern of education was threatened, and undoubtedly they feared that violence might accompany desegregation), obviously the status and prerogatives of white Southerners were more clearly threatened."

Registration Set For Music Study
Rock Hill--Registration is now open for the fall semester of the Music Study Program in the School of Music at Winthrop College.

In the Music Study Program, private instruction is available in piano, flute, clarinet, saxophone, trombone, trumpet, French horn, organ, voice and guitar. Supervised by the Winthrop music faculty, private lessons are taught by college music majors who have been approved for this

instruction.

The fee for piano instruction is \$80 per semester which includes one 30-minute private lesson and one 45-minute class lesson per week. The fee for private instruction in other instruments is \$40 per semester for one 30-minute lesson per week.

Instruction will begin the week of Sept. 4. The deadline for registration is Aug. 15.



Bettye M. McLaurin
...Serving 3rd term

Local Squaws

Attend National

Conclave

Members of Squaws, Inc. a local organization of Black Women, recently attended a national conclave in Toledo, Ohio from July 13 - 16, at the Commodore Perry Motor Inn.

The theme of the 6th Bi-Annual Conclave was "Better Communication Involvement."

Members and their families who attended included Mr. and Mrs. James Barnes, Mrs. Lillian Alexander, Mr. and Mrs. Purcell Bowser, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Cherry, Mr. and Mrs. William Gill, Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Perry, Mrs. Shirley Massey, Mr. and Mrs. James Phifer, Mr. and Mrs. John Shadd, and Mrs. Norma Westmorland.

The organization has 16 chapters on the national level. The other chapters are located in Philadelphia and Pittsburgh, Pa., Detroit and Benton Harbor, Mich., Cleveland and Toledo, Ohio, Charlotte, and Durham, N.C., Savannah and Atlanta, Ga., Dallas, Fort Worth and Houston, Texas, Washington, D.C., Springfield, Ill., and Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Squaws, Inc. is a service organization. In 1977, the organization presented a donation to the NAACP Legal Fund, in 1978 the conference bought a life membership and a golden heritage certificate, and gave a donation to the local chapter of the NAACP in Toledo, Ohio.

New Officers elected at the convention were Mrs. Bettye M. McLaurin, president; Ms. Patricia Dunn of Benton Harbor, Michigan, first vice-president; Mrs. Omega Parker of Durham, N.C., second vice-president; Mrs. Marian Covington of Durham, recording secretary; Mrs. Gloria Tomman of Detroit, correspondence secretary; Mrs. Mae C. Orr of Charlotte, financial secretary; Mrs. Audrey Davis, Philadelphia, treasurer; Mrs. Marion Hatcher, Washington, D.C. parliamentarian; Mrs. Maria Horton, Houston, Texas, chaplain; Mrs. Alice Sloan, Pittsburg, Mich., historian; and Mrs. LaLelle Rhodes, Toledo, Ohio.

The conclave will be held in Charlotte at the Radisson Plaza Hotel on July 17 - 20, 1980.



Robert S. Chiles
...Leaves Wachovia

Greensboro Bank

Names Chiles

Vice President

Robert S. Chiles Sr. has been named Executive Vice President of Greensboro National Bank, replacing William Pickens, who recently resigned.

Chiles, who will assume his duties on August 1, was formerly manager of retail banking administration at Wachovia Bank in Durham.

The announcement was made by Greensboro National Bank President Henry Frye.

Chiles, a native of Charlotte and graduate of both NCCU and Wake Forest University, is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas S. Chiles of 1816 Russell St.

He is the past chairman of the advisory board of the North Carolina Fellows program at A&T State University.

Chiles is married, has two children and will be moving to Greensboro before assuming his new post.

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2 \$1.78

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Roll
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78¢

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59¢ lb.

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63¢ lb.

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6 \$1.69

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\$1.14

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3 \$1.99

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69¢ Each

COST CUTTER WEEKLY SPECIAL FRESH RIPE, LARGE 2 1/2" SIZE AND UP Peaches
39¢ lb.

JUCY, SWEET California Plums **59¢**

RED RIPE Watermelon **99¢**

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BAKED Virginia **\$2.99** 50" lb.
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HAMBURGER STEAK Plate Lunch **\$1.69** Special INCLUDES 2 VEG., ROLL AND BUTTER

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