

SCHOOLS
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current method of distributing funds to school systems, five poor school systems that originally sued the state in 1994 would carry their grievance to the N.C. Supreme Court, said Rob Tiller, the Raleigh attorney who is litigating the case. Tiller said the appeal should be filed next week.

Hoke, Halifax, Robeson, Cumberland and Vance counties filed the suit because they wanted more funding from the state, contending that their smaller tax base denied students the same education available in wealthier counties, Tiller said.

The appeals court judges pointed out that the N.C. Constitution doesn't specify the quality of education offered to students. The constitution states, "the General Assembly shall ... provide a general and uniform education ... wherein equal opportunity shall be available to all students."

Tiller said he did not understand the reasoning of the appeals court judges. "I am going to have to leave that to greater minds than mine."

But how drastic is the difference between the ways students learn reading, writing and arithmetic in Cumberland vs. New Hanover county?

"Education is a labor intensive business," said Craig Phillips, superintendent of Vance County Schools.

School officials from rich and poor counties said the greatest problem existed in hiring and keeping quality teachers.

Hugh McManus, principal of John T. Hoggard High School in New Hanover County said, "It is most difficult for the poorer schools to compete with wealthier districts because they don't have the means to attract teachers."

He said teachers logically wanted to teach where they received the most support and money. "If you could go to Charlotte-Mecklenburg and make a good amount of money because the higher number of doctors and businessmen create a higher tax base or you could teach in Washington County where one of the four schools is a K-12 (kindergarten through twelfth grade) with only 36 teachers, where would you go?"

Maynette Regan, attorney for the Cumberland County School system, said because the school system could not afford to hire many teachers certified to teach advanced classes, advanced students often have scheduling conflicts and must choose

between advanced placement calculus or English. "In high schools, we cannot hire additional teachers. Gifted and talented students might have to choose (between advanced classes). We don't have teachers who are certified in the areas they are teaching," Regan said.

McManus said wealthy school systems lured teachers by offering them supplements to the state's standard salary.

Rene Corders, principal of Douglas Byrd Middle School in Cumberland County, said budget problems affected middle schools in different ways. "We're just going through middle school grade configuration," Corders said. "Our core teachers have to have two planning periods."

Corders said that forced teacher-pupil ratios up. Her students said they thought their teachers did not have much time to spend with them individually. "I like our school," eighth grade student Melissa Spencer said. "It would be better if there were less students. We could have more personal time with the teachers."

Chandra Rowe, also in the eighth grade, agreed. "The teachers have to deal with the disciplinary students."

Storage Rooms Become Classrooms

But officials say hiring more teachers will not help if the school doesn't have a place for them to teach. Many schools are overcrowded or dilapidated.

John Griffen, superintendent of Cumberland County schools, said the lack of money caused problems that were more than skin-deep. The system cannot afford to hire additional teachers, but many teachers already teach in gymnasiums or storage rooms because the system cannot afford to build new facilities.

Corders said her school, located in Fayetteville, was overcrowded, housing in excess of 1,600 students at the beginning of this school year.

Even after the fundamental staff and facility problems are addressed, school officials say additional resources are needed to make the schools competitive.

The middle school concept focuses on teaching students self-esteem and character development as well as reading, writing and arithmetic. Corders said Douglas Byrd did not have the resources for many of those programs.

She said her school had offered a pilot peer-helping program for several years that became a model program across the country. "We don't have it any more," she said, citing budget crunches.

College: The Next Step?

1994 high school graduates who applied to at least one UNC-system institution:

Systems with a high tax base:		Systems with a low tax base:	
Asheville City	56 %	Halifax County	31 %
Forsyth County	49 %	Hoke County	35 %
Mecklenburg County	51 %	Robeson County	35 %
Wake County	59 %	Vance County	36 %
Buncombe County	40 %	Cumberland County	43 %
Total	51 %	Total	36 %

Exceptional children — both gifted and learning disabled — were often the most disadvantaged, Corders said. "In all respects, these children suffer the most. I think we forget about them sometimes."

The three Douglas Byrd students expressed desire to have the advantage of "extras" such as additional foreign languages and Internet access. "I wish there was computers where you could talk to other students and learn about other cultures," eighth-grader Andrew Besser said.

Rowe said she would rather learn German than Spanish, the only foreign language she currently could take at the Fayetteville middle school.

At the high school level, the stakes are higher because college admissions standards put pressure on students to take advantage of classes, sports and extra-curricular activities.

While Chapel Hill High School will offer nine advanced placement classes next year, a biology teacher at one Cumberland County high school had so many students the biology lab had to be held after school.

Regan pointed out that holding lab after school excludes those who ride the bus or forces a choice between academics and sports or other extra-curricular activities.

Poor Outlook

Anthony Strickland, associate director of admissions at UNC, said extra-curricular activities could admit a "borderline" student.

Strickland said admission was not based on the high school students graduated from but how the students utilized their school's opportunities.

"To me the big disadvantage is the lack of outlook to realize things exist beyond the confines of a poorer county," he said.

"There are usually two to six counties from which we receive no applications at all." Statistics from UNC General Adminis-

tration showed that in 1994 students from the five counties involved in the lawsuit were 12 percent less likely to apply to UNC institutions than students from Charlotte, Winston-Salem, Raleigh, Durham and Asheville.

The "bottom line" in the disparity in school facilities, faculty and programs laid in the economic differences between the counties, Griffen said.

Cities have businesses and industries that create a large tax base. In other counties, the resources aren't there.

Vance County is located on the Virginia-North Carolina state line. The main base of tax support in Vance County comes from the downsizing Rose's corporate headquarters and Harry and Henderson Yarn Factory. "A poor county in terms of property base, county base, outlook on itself," he said.

In Cumberland, Fort Bragg takes a large portion of the land and leaves even less of a county tax base. Griffen said Cumberland County Schools ranked 79th or 80th in the state from year to year. "People don't perceive us as being that poor."

Corders said adolescents from five federal housing projects attended Fayetteville's Douglas Byrd, and 50 percent of the student body receives free or reduced lunch.

McManus estimated that 30 percent at the most of his students received free or reduced lunch.

The future of the poor counties' litigation is unknown, so Chandra Rowe won't get to take German any time soon and Principal Corders won't be reinstating her peer-helping program.

Educators and students must deal with the cold, hard facts.

"The fact of the matter is if you want to farm, don't move to a New Hanover County, if you want a good education don't move to Hyde County," McManus said. "It's sad, but it's true."

GOVERNMENT
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Cloud said. "There were times I couldn't answer. You could be talking to someone outside, and then when you go into a meeting they start (asking questions). You can't be unprepared. Women don't have that luxury."

Cloud said her term served as a learning experience. "Women are very knowledgeable and determined. "We get the job done," she said. "I can't say that men don't get the job done, but in my experiences, women see things through. We do the best we can because women have to do everything twice as good."

McIntyre said women were happy making progress in different ways on campus. "SBP shouldn't be the only indicator that things are changing (for women)," she said. "We have a whole lot of women making a difference in organizations all over campus."

Student government was not male-dominated, McIntyre said. "I think women are doing the moving and shaking. I don't want there to be a misconception that student government is male-dominated." Student Body President Aaron Nelson's administration, she said, was "heavily weighted with females."

Chapel Hill Town Council member Mark Chilton served in student government in the executive branch in 1991. "My recollection is that there were a lot of women who were involved all up and down the chain of command, but not in the top executive positions."

ASSAULT
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1,600 students, has an enrollment of nearly 2,200. The overcrowding at CHHS didn't help efforts to maintain campus safety, Hoke said.

Bushnell said not enough policemen were around campus to monitor the large number of students. "All it takes is a couple of individuals deciding to be irresponsible and out of line," Bushnell said.

Hoke said that potential measures to prevent similar violent incidents in the

Chilton said past female student body president candidates might have lost because of sexism. He said he worked with a female student body president candidate who was racked by gender issues.

"She was compared to Hillary Clinton," he said. "Basically there was a tendency to assume that a female SBP candidate was power hungry and conniving." He said these attitudes were shocking. "Sometimes you hear it from people you think are above and beyond that."

Swan and McIntyre said the problems were not within the small concentration of women in student government, but in whether or not women's issues were addressed by student government.

Student government and the University administration did not deal with women's issues when left to their own devices, Swan said. She said the proposed women's center on campus was an example.

"In order to establish a women's center, the students had to look for it, and it's still an iffy issue," she said. "We have to get off our butts and push. I don't think they would have done any of this otherwise."

McIntyre said it was very difficult to separate women's issues and minority issues. "Women get lost in the shuffle for many of the same reasons as minorities do," she said.

Cloud said the funding for women's programs was sufficient. "Even though people may be a little cold, they aren't completely heartless."

Swan said, "I think it's a matter of women getting together, we need more candidates."

future included increased surveillance, locking off stairways (particularly those in the cultural arts building) and fencing off secluded areas of the campus.

CHHS principal Charles Patterson might have additional preventive methods of his own, Hoke said. Patterson was unavailable for comment.

Royster said the school board would cooperate with CHHS and the police to improve campus safety. "The situation has been identified and is being treated," he said. "There is no tolerance for violent acts on our campus."

Campus Calendar

WEDNESDAY

11 a.m.-4 p.m. BLOOD DRIVE sponsored by APO, Hillel and Tri Sigma in the Great Hall of the Student Union. For additional information, contact Ellen Flaspoecher at 969-7641.
5 p.m. a.p.p.l.e.s. interest meeting for prospective reflection session facilitators in Union 203. For additional information, contact Erin Parrish at 962-0902.
5:30 p.m. SENIOR SEND OFF: come join us at

the Newman Center for dinner followed by a tribute to our seniors. All Newman seniors are encouraged to attend, as well as underclassmen.

WORKSHOP AT LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRIES: A fellowship meal will follow at 6:15 p.m. There will be a special presentation on mission work in Africa. For more information, call Larry Hartsell at 967-2677.

7 p.m. EMERGING LEADERS information session in 101 Greenlaw. For additional information, contact Mark at 966-4041.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY will have its final meeting of the semester in Union 205-206. For additional information, contact Karen Caskie at 969-7641.

COMPANY CAROLINA INFORMATION MEETING, regarding producer elections and staff positions for 1996-97. Union 206. For more information, contact Steve Case at 929-5631.

9 p.m. UNC CLEF HANGERS AUDITIONS, sign up at the Union Desk by 5 p.m. to try out for UNC's premiere all-male a cappella group. For additional information, contact Jason Allbert at 914-2243.



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Kappa Epsilon • Kappa Kappa Gamma
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For shoveling a truckload of gravel, we thank
Phi Sigma Kappa
Thank you to the individual members of Greek organizations who support the Center as Volunteers!
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