

# Legislation designed to upgrade education

By BEVERLY MILLS  
Staff Writer

Three bills aimed at improving public education in North Carolina recently were introduced in the General Assembly with the strong support of Gov. James B. Hunt.

Legislation proposing competency tests for 11th graders, standardized testing and greater community involvement in public schools have been introduced in the Senate by D. Livingston Stallings, D-New Bern. Rep. Dwight Quinn, D-Kannapolis, introduced the bills in the House.

In related action, the Department of Public Instruction has proposed a \$45-million expansion of the Primary Reading Program in its budget for 1978-79.

According to Betty Owen, policy development analyst for Gov. Hunt, the Primary Reading Program for first through third grades will be expanded from 305 classrooms to 5,500 by the 1978-79 school

year. "Many youngsters graduate from high school functionally illiterate," Owen said. "One of the functions of the state is to provide the basics. We feel that by placing emphasis on first through third grades, the state will see more immediate results for the money."

The \$5,000 per classroom cost will provide a full-time teacher's aide and \$6 per child for teaching materials. Owen said the function of the aide will be to provide students with individual attention.

"Actually, this program is not terrifically expensive in terms of education costs today," Owen said. "This is not as expensive as adding a teacher to each classroom."

Success of the Primary Reading Program will be measured by two diagnostic tests. A prescriptive reading inventory will be given at the beginning of each year, placing each child at his reading level. A comprehensive evaluation of skills will be administered at

the end of each year to measure individual progress.

The objective of the program is to teach each child basic reading skills by the end of the third grade. If a child fails to meet these standards, the local school system will decide what action to take.

"It is the hope of Gov. Hunt that within four years all schools can have this program. The proposed \$45 million will be two-thirds of the way to funding the whole project," Owen said.

Gov. Hunt is also in strong support of a bill to establish a competency test to be given to 11th graders. This test would measure survival skills—reading, writing, and math. A student must pass this test in order to receive his diploma.

Under the bill, a 15-member commission would be set up to determine the details surrounding the competency test. The commission would include professionals, lay people, psychologists and testing experts.

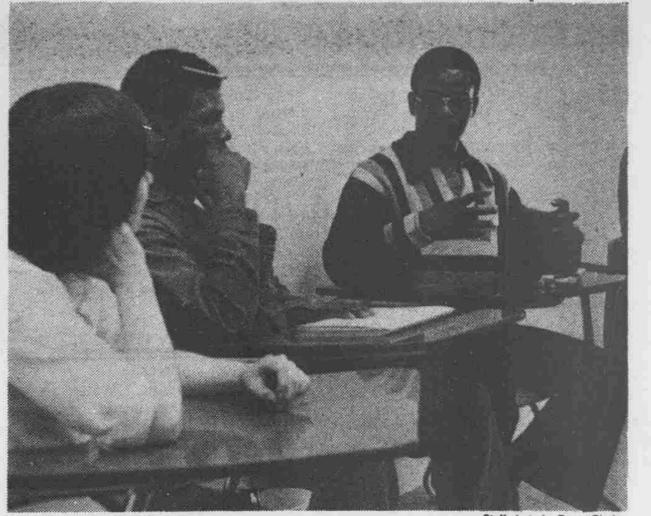
Sen. Stallings, chairperson of the Senate Education Committee, said, "I don't know what we'll do with those students who fail. That is a problem we'll have to answer soon. There will be some students who won't pass and will have to get less than a standard diploma."

A companion bill to the competency test is one of standardized testing for grades 1, 2, 3, 6 and 9 to determine any deficiencies students might have.

"We've been letting kids go through our schools without measurement. This program has been needed for a long time," Stallings said.

The competency testing will cost \$155,335 the first year and \$116,415 the second. Standardized testing will cost \$552,283 the first year and \$296,359 the second.

Stallings and Quinn also have introduced a bill which calls for more community involvement in public schools.



Staff photo by Bruce Clarke

A UNC speech course that uses students to teach inmates better methods of communication had its roots in a program originally designed for speech students and instructors to train offenders in public speaking. The 'tell it like it is' program helped inmates in telling high school audiences how to avoid a life of crime.

## prison

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There are also numerous committees, such as those setting up special sessions for the class to meet with drug offenders, lawyers and counselors. Another committee is planning a banquet which will be held at FCI at the end of the semester—the climax of the course. Students also are required to visit at least three prisons or halfway houses during the semester.

Several students are working with the "Tell It Like It Is" program, which has been renamed "Speak Out." Those with community volunteer passes have taken three honor-grade prisoners from Triangle Correctional Center to speak and answer questions at UNC-Greensboro and Wake Forest Law School this semester.

"This course takes up a lot of time normally used for reading and studying," Smith said. "There is less reading and more doing and thinking than most courses. It puts a great deal of responsibility on the students." Students are given a midterm and final examination based on the concepts they are trained to teach.

For the first time, Speech 95-96 will be open to any students who want to apply for it for fall 1977.

Applicants are interviewed by Brandes and by members of the class. "We look for a wide variety of backgrounds and majors—fraternity and nonfraternity people, scholars and so forth," he said.

Students fund a good portion of the course themselves, with expenses including transportation, office expenses and the banquet. Last semester, each student paid \$12, with other sources including bake sales, contributions, some funds from the University and a small trust account.

Outside funds have been limited, except for provisions for the syllabus by the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare under Title I of the Higher Education Act of 1965 and a small grant from the NIC.

Brandes said he has tried his best to locate other programs similar to the communication course. "I'm sure there are more than we know about." The closest thing he has found is a course with 150 students at Vanderbilt University, but its goals are only to expose students to prison life.

Smith doesn't plan any major changes in the structure of the course next year.

"We'll probably conduct courses in Butler or some state prisons or prerelease centers. The goals of the course will never change. I might vary the sessions, but then, we eliminate and add all the time."

Inmates apparently have benefited from the course, too.

"I think this is definitely preparing me for when I get out," one inmate said. "I look forward to this more than anything else all week."

### The Student Council for Exceptional Children of UNC will sponsor FUN DAY on Saturday, April 30th, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

This day will consist of pairing college student volunteers with handicapped and non-handicapped children for a day of fun, games, lunch, and entertainment of the Father-Son Picnic variety.

It is our hope that this day provides students with genuinely reliable information about children, information that will be needed in order to make future decisions concerning children and handicapped children and adults.

It would also be a time to provide children of this area with a special day of fun—and college student volunteers could effectively model the acceptance of others with different needs.

If you or your organization has an interest, drop by Room 010 Peabody Hall on Tuesday, April 5th anytime between the hours of 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.

If you are unable to come by drop your name, address, and phone number in campus mail addressed to:

- FUN DAY - SCEC
- Dept. of Special Education
- Peabody Hall
- UNC Campus
- or call Tim Rogers at 933-3279.
- FUN DAY - Fun for all, and more.

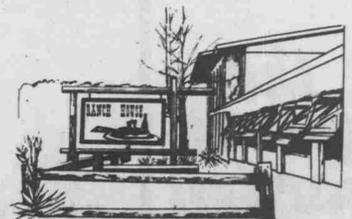
### Cactus Ted's Famous Ranch House invites you to come in for lunch.

Beginning Monday, April 4th, the Ranch House will be open for lunch from 11:30-2:00 Every Mon.-Fri.

Lunch will feature Daily Specials, as well as regular entrees and a Salad Bar.

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# Helms aide talks to Republicans on the bankruptcy of liberalism

By BERNIE RANSBOTTOM  
Staff Writer

In 1952, the students of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill elected Hamilton Horton student body president. Today, Horton, a native of Winston-Salem, is still in politics, but on the national level as administrative assistant to U.S. Sen. Jesse Helms, R-N.C.

Horton was back in Chapel Hill Saturday to speak to the N.C. Federation of College Republicans (NCFCR). After his speech, he talked about his job, his philosophy, the future of the Republican party—and what originally motivated him to get involved in politics.

Emphasizing that it would be impossible to attribute his interest in politics to any one factor, Horton said he believes that it was mainly his love for history, and especially his love for North Carolina, which generated that interest.

Horton served in the N.C. House of Representatives from 1969 to 1971 and in the N.C. Senate from 1971 to 1974. Now working in Washington, D.C., which he jokingly called "Sodom on the Potomac" in his speech to the NCFCR, Horton said that his job "can be anything from washing out coffee cups to entertaining visiting firemen."

"When people come in from North Carolina, what I do is refer them to people that can help them on the staff."

Horton said he firmly believes that senators and their staffs are in Washington to serve the people of their respective states, but he emphasized that this is almost impossible now because of the ever-increasing size of government and bureaucracy.

"The senatorial staffs have grown themselves as the bureaucracy has to try to keep pace, until now we have the situation where five, six

people are sharing one office."

Horton's soft Southern drawl was barely audible above the afternoon hum of the Carolina Union. And, as the students in the basement commented on the course of the UNCC-Marquette basketball game, Horton reflected on the problem of depersonalization in government.

"The big problem is that big government, no matter how well-meaning it is, is about to just smother the initiative in a man's life to just do as he pleases."

Horton said he believes that the Republican party now is recognizing this problem and will begin making changes in an attempt to deal with it.

The outlook of America's college students also is changing, Horton noted, and he said he feels the change will be in the Republicans' favor.

"College-age people in this country are moving conservative," Horton said. "This has been indicated in a number of polls. No one can really account for it."

However, Horton seems to have his own philosophy as to the causes of this movement.

"The intellectual bankruptcy of liberalism was demonstrated in World War I, but it has taken 50 years for the philosophic destruction to filter down to the people at large, and they are now beginning to perceive it..."

Horton has chosen his position on the side of the conservatives, with an outlook which he describes as "not an old-fashioned negativism, not Wall Streetism or free enterprism—that's an ism, too—but a true, creative kind of conservatism that is trying to put things together."



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