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On the inside . . .
Election probe,
comment draw fire
. . . see page 2

Tests Show Up Student Deficiencies



DAN PACKARD, president of Asheville-WNC Better Business Bureau, (seated) explains the benefits of a course in economics and money management to Superintendent R.L. Edwards, left, and Madison High Principal David Wyatt, at a meeting here

last Thursday. Edwards and Wyatt accepted the new program to start soon for seniors. Micro-Switch of Mars Hill is assisting in the finances for materials offered by BBB at no expense to the school system. See Story on Page 8

By DR. BOBBY JEAN RICE
General Supervisor
Madison County Schools

In the spring of 1978, a battery of achievement tests was administered to students in the first, second, third, sixth, and ninth grades in Madison County School System, as well as to students at comparable grade levels throughout North Carolina. First grade students in the Madison County Schools made the ideal score on reading for their grade level (1.7). They were on the grade level as compared to national norms. They excelled in mathematics (2.2) averaging five months above the national norm.

Second graders in the county fell two months behind the national level in reading, but they, too, excelled in mathematics (3.3), averaging six months above the national norm.

Third grade students were tested in reading, mathematics, language, and spelling. They averaged four months behind the national norm in total test scores, but only two months below the state.

Sixth grade students excelled in spelling. They averaged four months ahead the national norm in spelling. In other areas, they were only a few months behind grade level.

The ninth graders in the state averaged below grade level as did Madison County students. They were two months below the state in reading and mathematics.

Results from the tests will be used to identify students' learning strengths and weaknesses, to improve students' academic performances, to inform parents and the general public of the progress of their children and the educational programs, and to plan and improve educational programs.

A reading test and a mathematics test were administered in grades one and two. They were designed to give teachers and parents detailed information about a student's performance on skills and knowledge that are emphasized at that student's particular grade level. This information will be used to pinpoint areas in which the teacher, the parent, and the student need to concentrate to

improve the student's performance.

Achievement tests in reading, mathematics, and language were administered to students at grades three, six, and nine. These tests, in contrast to the tests used at the first and second grades, were designed to obtain general measures of performance and to compare the performance of various groups of students. These tests provide, however, enough detailed information to help the teacher obtain indicators of the student's strengths and learning difficulties.

Test Data: Reading, and mathematics tests were administered to first grade

students in the Madison County School System during the seventh month of the school year. The average grade equivalent for first-grade students in the nation, therefore, is 1.7. The grade equivalent scores for the average first grade student in the Madison County School System were 1.7 in reading, and 2.2 in mathematics. In contrast, the average first grade student in the state performed 1.7 in reading, 2.1 in mathematics.

Reading, and mathematics tests were administered to second-grade students in the Madison County School System during the seventh month of the school year. The average grade equivalent for third-grade students in the nation, therefore, is 3.7. The grade

equivalent scores for the average third-grade student in the Madison County School System were 2.9 in reading, 3.5 in mathematics, 3.2 in language, 3.0 in spelling, and 3.3 on the total test. In contrast, the average student in the state performed 3.5 in reading, 3.6 in mathematics, 3.6 in language, 3.8 in spelling, and 3.5 on the total test.

Reading, mathematics, spelling, and language tests were administered to third-grade students in the Madison County School System during seventh month of the school year. The average grade equivalent for third-grade students in the nation, therefore, is 3.7. The grade

equivalent scores for the average third-grade student in the Madison County School System were 2.9 in reading, 3.5 in mathematics, 3.2 in language, 3.0 in spelling, and 3.3 on the total test. In contrast, the average student in the state performed 3.5 in reading, 3.6 in mathematics, 3.6 in language, 3.8 in spelling, and 3.5 on the total test.

Reading, mathematics, language, and spelling tests were administered to sixth grade students in the Madison County School System during the seventh month of the school year. The grade equivalent scores for the

(Continued on Page 8-A)

The Phillips Story : Off Again, On Again

In a rapid change of events, the Madison County Board of Education voted Monday night to reinstate Bruce Phillips as assistant principal of Madison High School in a reversal of the principal's action naming Phillips to a teaching position.

Monday night's action by the board followed a complaint filed earlier Monday by Phillips naming David Wyatt, principal of Madison High School; Robert L. Edwards, superintendent; Donald Anderson, Dedrick Cody, R.Z. Ponder, William Roberts and Emery Wallin, members of the board of education, as defendants in a move to change Phillips's duties from assistant principal to a teaching position at the school.

Monday night's action came on a motion by board member Donald Anderson after a brief statement on behalf of Phillips by attorney Ronald C. Brown in which the authority of the principal to make the change was challenged.

Brown represented an informal group of parents, about 50 of whom attended the board session held in the courthouse. Members of the parents group had said before the meeting that the demotion of Phillips had come about because he had given testimony at the

recent state Board of Elections inquiry into the conduct of the May primary in Madison County.

The vote calling for reinstatement of Phillips was supported by Anderson, a professor at Mars Hill College, Bill Roberts and Dedrick Cody. It was opposed by Bobby Ponder.

One other board member as well as the chairman, Emery Wallin, did not vote on the motion.

Phillips also is a Democrat and a former party chairman of Precinct 4 in the Greater Ivy community of eastern Madison where he resides. With the school system since the early 1960s, Phillips had been principal of the former Hot Springs High School before the consolidated Madison High School opened four years ago, and had been assistant principal there since.

Brown, in addressing the board, said Phillips was well liked by students and associates and had been doing an outstanding job as assistant principal.

"Friday the principal (David Wyatt) terminated that assignment and assigned Mr. Phillips five classes of English to teach. He has never taught English. His major is in history and social sciences,"

the attorney said.

Brown contended that under state law the school board has complete control over school administration and policies, and asked that the board stand by its decision of last year "and put Mr. Phillips back as assistant principal." Brown added that a lawsuit was in process of being filed.

After the vote the principal, Wyatt, spoke from the audience to say he now has five classes of English and asked: "Who will teach them?"

When another person in the audience offered to suggest two or three qualified persons, Anderson said the problem is

not that simple because "there are no more state allotted slots to fill" in the high school faculty.

Another person in the crowd asked if a principal could put a non-English specialist in charge "of one of the most sensitive classes in the school."

Superintendent Edwards replied that Phillips had taught English at one time when at Ebbs Chapel School.

The school board attorney, Larry Leake Jr., had been asked by Anderson to give an opinion as to the legality of the principal's actions, and Leake stated that under the circumstances had the right to do

(Continued on Page 2A)

Title XX Program Grant Renewed

A \$57,978 renewal of a Title XX grant has been awarded Mars Hill College to continue assisting the different social agencies in Madison, Yancey, Mitchell and Buncombe counties in their efforts to help individuals, families and communities become self-sufficient.

The grant renewal was made through the Division of Social Services of the N.C. Department of Human Resources. The funds were provided to the state under Title XX of the federal government's Social Security Act of 1935.

The grant will be used to continue a training program designed two years ago by Mars Hill and human services providers from the four counties. College faculty, working jointly with a training advisory committee composed of representatives from the Title XX agencies, designed a flexible training program around the specific needs of these agencies and their workers.

Title XX services are those which help individuals, families and communities become self-sufficient. These services are usually provided through county departments of social services. County

health departments, mental health centers, day care programs and handi-schools are also agencies which can provide Title XX services. The provisions of the act also extend to individuals such as foster parents, who provide this type of service.

The members of the advisory committee and the agency they represent are: Polly Taylor of the Yancey County Health Department; Walter Anderson of the Adult Day Activities Program (ADAP) in Yancey County; Floyd Holt of the Yancey County Department of Social Services; Alice Mahy of the Mars Hill Handi-School; Anita Davie of the Madison County Department of Social Services; Theresa Zimmerman of the Madison County Day Care Program; Faye Ramsey of Madison County's Opportunity Corp.; Michael Norins of the Hot Springs Unaka Center.

The project attracted attention when it was started two years ago because it was one of a handful of similar projects designed around the expressed needs of rural workers. Similar programs were utilizing projects based on urban models.

Dore Hansel, project

(Continued on Page 8-A)

Dorland Reunion Scheduled

The annual Dorland-Bell reunion will be held this Saturday and Sunday in the Dorland Memorial Presbyterian Church in Hot Springs.

Festivities will begin Saturday evening with a supper. In addition to supper, special music and bingo games will be enjoyed.

On Sunday morning, worship service will begin at 11 and immediately after the service, the usual bountiful dinner will be served on the grounds. The Rev. William Emerson will deliver the morning message. The picnic dinner (covered-dish buffet) is scheduled to begin by 12:30 with a business session to follow. The proposed Kenneth Burgin Memorial Fund will be discussed as well as other items.

All alumni of Dorland Bell and their friends and guests, as well as others, are invited to enjoy the services and picnic dinner.

Dewey Shelton is president; Elizabeth Lollar Elliott, vice president; and Agnes Brooks Ford, secretary.

"We are expecting a large crowd and unforgettable fellowship with former classmates and new friends," Mrs. Ford said.

Tour To Examine Tobacco

By WILEY DuVALL
Agricultural Extension Agent

Tobacco will be the topic of discussion on the Western Extension-Research On Wheels, On-Farm Test Tour, scheduled for mid August.

Burley tobacco activities begin Aug. 15, with registration, coffee and doughnuts at Holiday Inn, Asheville, at 9 a.m., followed by farm visits in Haywood, Madison and Yancey Counties. The first

stop of the tour is located on the Sam Queen Farm in Haywood County (in the city of Waynesville). Multipurpose chemicals and certain piggy-back combinations for control of black root rot on both low (Burley 21) and high (Kentucky 15) resistant varieties is featured at this stop at 9:30.

The second stop for the tour is scheduled for 11:05 at the Roy Ammons Farm in Madison County. The group will have a chance to view and study a range of resistant varieties and chemicals for

both black shank and black root rot control and also an opportunity to view an excellent crop and discuss production methods. The Roy Ammons stop provides valuable information not only on disease control but general production on a "seeing" is believing" basis.

The Awards Luncheon is scheduled for Mars Hill College Cafeteria at 12:05. Dr. Carlton Blacklock, associate dean and director, N.C. Agricultural Extension

(Continued on Page 8-A)



MAKING plans for the Annual Wiley DuVall and Professor Research on Wheels Burley Tour Aug. 15-16 are Roy Ammons,

Complaint Names School Officials

A complaint was filed in the Madison County Clerk of Court's office Monday by James Bruce Phillips, plaintiff, vs. David Wyatt, Robert L. Edwards, Donald Anderson, Dedrick Cody, R.Z. Ponder, William Roberts and Emery Wallin.

The complaint states that the plaintiff (Phillips) is a career teacher and is currently employed as the assistant principal at Madison High School and has no classroom duties. The complaint further states that the plaintiff is in the employment of the Madison County Board of Education and that he (Phillips) has been in this capacity for four years.

The defendants hold the following positions: Wyatt is currently principal of Madison High School. Edwards is superintendent of Madison County Schools. Anderson, Cody, Ponder, Roberts and Wallin are currently members of the Board of Education.

The complaint states that the plaintiff has been told orally by the defendant, David Wyatt, as the agent of all of the other defendants on or about Aug. 4, that the plaintiff would be relieved of his duties as assistant principal and transferred to the position of a classroom teacher effective immediately, which would result in a monetary loss of about \$190 per month. The plaintiff contends that the action is a demotion, etc., and the defendants have not followed the procedures as set out by law. The plaintiff also contends in the complaint that the demotion has caused

immediate and irreparable injury, loss and damage.

The complaint states that the plaintiff prays the court to enter a Temporary Restraining Order against the defendants from relieving the plaintiff as the assistant principal at Madison High School and to install and maintain the plaintiff as assistant principal until such time as the defendants comply with the provisions of G.S. 115-142 (b), and for other and further relief as the court may deem just and proper.

Prisoner Damages Jail Here

Douglas Rhodes, 21-year-old negro student at Mars Hill College and a native of Greenville, S.C., evidently didn't fall in love with the Madison County jail last week when he was arrested for disorderly conduct and placed in a cell.

Sheriff Ponder said the young man angrily tore an iron leg off a cell seat, broke out two large windows in the front of his cell and wrecked the plumbing in the cell before he was stopped by officers.

An estimated \$200 damage was done, Ponder stated. Ponder said the young man's parents from Greenville came up the following day and agreed to pay the amount. The young man is now in the hospital.