

**FOUNDATION BRIEFS**

**SOFTWARE**

**Gateses, Microsoft stock libraries**

Microsoft founder Bill Gates and his wife, Melinda French Gates, have formed the Gates Library Foundation — a nonprofit organization that will partner with U.S. and Canadian public libraries to bring computers and digital information to the communities they serve. The couple's \$200 million personal gift to the foundation will be supplemented by a donation from Microsoft of software with a retail value of \$200 million.



Bill Gates

The foundation plans to provide approximately 17,000 public libraries in low-income communities with the computer hardware and software required for community access to the

Internet, as well as provide support and training for public library personnel throughout the U.S. and Canada.

Gates also donated more than \$100 million of company stock to his private foundation in May.

**PUBLIC POLICY**

**Legal foundation sues IRS over records**

Landmark Legal Foundation announced it is suing the Internal Revenue Service for failing to comply with a Freedom of Information Act request seeking information that might explain a rash of IRS audits of conservative and libertarian tax-exempt organizations.

Landmark President Mark R. Levin filed the request in January. The Herndon, Va.-based foundation sought copies of all records "evinced requests since Jan. 1, 1992 by individuals and/or entities external to the [IRS] for audits or investigations of 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organizations."

The foundation said in a news

release it has had to "jump through unprecedented legal hoops in order to obtain the information." Landmark sued the IRS in federal court in the District of Columbia in June.

**HOUSING**

**Fannie Mae, NBA team up**

The Fannie Mae Foundation has signed a multi-year partnership with the National Basketball Association to disseminate home-buying information during NBA telecasts.

Through the "Home Team" partnership, the Fannie Mae Foundation, which creates affordable housing opportunities for low- and middle-income families, will become a sponsor of NBA game broadcasts. The foundation will bring its offer of free home-buying information to the millions of renters who are NBA fans.

In addition to its sponsorship of game telecasts on TNT and TBS, the foundation will provide free home-buying information at special NBA fan events such as NBA Jam Session at All-Star Weekend.

**Leadership training for educators**

**Guilford schools get \$10 million**

*The Joseph M. Bryan Foundation gives its largest grant ever in a partnership with the nonprofit Center for Creative Leadership.*

By LESLIE WAUGH

**Greensboro**

Principals and teachers in Guilford County public schools will receive leadership training that normally caters to heads of Fortune 500 companies thanks to a \$10 million partnership between the Joseph M. Bryan Foundation of Greater Greensboro and the Center for Creative Leadership, an international nonprofit based in Greensboro that trains business and government leaders from around the world.

The Bryan Foundation provided a \$4.9 million grant — its largest ever — and the Center for Creative Leadership will write off \$5.1 million in tuition and fees to train principals of all 94 schools. The six-year initiative was announced July 8.

The center also will train 15-member teams consisting of administrators, teachers, parents and community volunteers at 20 selected schools. The Bryan Foundation will provide unrestricted grants of up to \$10,000 to each of the 20 schools, and the major grant also will fund evaluation and research related to the project, to be

conducted with faculty at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

The announcement comes on the heels of a \$1 million gift the Bryan Foundation awarded in May to the Guilford County school system for training in the Paideia method, a form of instruction that stresses interactive learning over traditional lecturing. The foundation gives unsolicited grants to Greensboro-area organizations.

Participants in the new training program will get feedback on their personal leadership styles and behaviors, and they will explore problem solving, conflict management, team building, goal setting and planning.

The center will model training on its Leadership Development Program, ranked by *The Wall Street Journal* as the world's most popular open-enrollment executive education program.

"Participation in decision-making teams is an essential skill that teachers, parents and school administrators must perfect if site-based management is to reach its full potential," says Jerry Weast, superintendent of Guilford County Schools, "and this new partnership will become a model for training school leaders throughout the world."

**Greater focus on outcomes  
Education partnership  
aims to be catalyst**

*The nonprofit group that supports Wake County schools is moving its focus from supporting community-based groups to targeting specific outcomes in the schools.*

By TODD COHEN

**Raleigh**

The Wake Education Partnership is shifting gears and plans to take a more active role in involving the community in helping to improve the county's public schools.

The nonprofit, which has focused its attention on raising money and making grants to community-based organizations that support the Wake schools, now plans to focus instead on aiming to achieve specific outcomes.

In particular, the group will direct its resources to raise awareness about and increase citizen participation in issues of teacher development and recruitment; technology; school finance; standards and accountability; and school-community partnerships.

"The direction that is being adopted is to really unite our community behind shared goals for public education," says Tony Habit, who has been president of the partnership since March. "We are changing the whole

structure."

Habit, who was executive director of the Durham Public Education Network for eight years, says the partnership will continue to raise money and award grants.

This year's annual campaign, to be announced this fall, is expected to have a goal of more than \$500,000. Last year's campaign, which had a goal of \$375,000, raised almost \$463,000.

In the fiscal year that began July 1, the roughly half-a-dozen community groups that have received grants from the partnership in the past will receive their final grants from the partnership, Habit says. The partnership also will make capacity-building grants to those groups to help them become more self-sufficient.

As part of its new thrust, the partnership also will make grants directly to teachers, particularly to teachers who have ideas linked to improving student achievement.

And the partnership also will begin a concerted effort to "engage the community as partners with its school system in building the most effective system possible," Habit says.

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**CATAWBA**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

ronmental crises.

The program initially will keep watch over the most populated 60-mile stretch of the 225-mile river. The area from Lake Norman to Lake Wylie, S.C., contains popular recreational and residential areas and large industrial sites such as Duke Energy, Spring Industries and Hoechst Celanese.

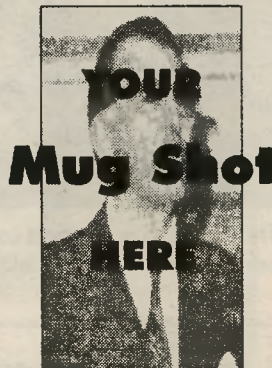
A 1995 study by the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources found that approximately \$2.1 million from tourism were spent annually in the Lake Wylie area alone. Mecklenburg County's population has grown from 270,000 in 1960 to 600,000 in 1996, a 120 percent increase.

While the Catawba River is in relatively good condition, McLaurin says, growth in the area has and will continue to take its toll on the environment and on water quality.

"When we began to look at the impact of growth on the river, it seemed to be the appropriate time to look at what we can do now — to stay ahead of the game," he says. "The river-watch program that we hope to develop seems to be the natural next step."

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**DUKE**

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collaborative projects last year. The first project financed through the fund was an internship program in which college students spend a summer working for some of the endowment's grant recipients. The program, now in its second year, received \$30,000 this year and was the lone collaborative project funded in 1997.

Meanwhile, endowment officials have continued to search for ideas to improve services for children. A series of meetings, including a two-day brainstorming retreat for board members and representatives of other major foundations in January 1996, has led to a proposal to increase the collaborative fund by \$3 million for 1998.

Endowment leaders hope to use the money for projects that benefit

children and families. Locke says the foundation plans to issue a request for proposals from a select group of about 20 major institutions. Those institutions could include hospitals, as well as the three universities and one college that the endowment funds: Duke, Johnson C. Smith and Furman universities and Davidson College.

The request for proposals could go out as early as this fall. The endowment would make funding decisions next year, Locke says.

In developing proposals, the larger institutions would be expected to forge coalitions with local groups, such as churches, schools and neighborhood associations.

"Examples where we've seen this work is when communities have gotten together with schools, parents, teachers, neighborhood associations, etc.," Locke says. "It's that togetherness, that unified front that seems to be effective."

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