

SCHOOL SPENDING

(Continued from page 1)

Carolina counties.

Not surprising is the fact that the state's major urban counties, also the wealthiest counties, lead in school spending.

Wake surged to the top this year, largely because of a major capital building program.

Gulford County leads spending for current operations which is a more relevant measure of how schools are impacted by local spending since this category includes such things as additional teachers, support staff, salary supplements, computers, textbooks and instructional supplies.

Unlike most states, North Carolina provides the bulk of funding for its public schools. Of the nearly \$4 billion FY 90-91 budget for public schools, 69.1 percent is funded by the state, 7.7 percent from the federal government and 23 percent locally.

In general, the state pays teacher salaries and other operational expenses while local governments are expected to provide the buildings. In recent years, however, more and more of the state's urban areas have realized that the state level of spending is not adequate and have supplemented state funds with local resources.

Local spending for current operations ranges from a high of 1.651 to a low of \$226 per student. "This large gap in operating expenditures among counties is especially troubling," said Peter Leousis, the forum's director of policy research and the study's author. "It is caused mostly by differences in wealth, and to some extent by tax policies."

A positive finding of the study is an increase in school construction, particularly among rural schools.

Clay County, for example, sparsely populated and remote in the western mountains, leads capital spending with an average of \$799 per student. As a result of its capital building program, Clay County moved from 93rd to 15th in total spending.

Other counties which have made substantial gains are Beaufort, Edgecombe, Granville and Green.

"The growth in spending for school construction has accelerated during the past three years and this is significant," Dornan said. "While much of that growth stems from the 1987 School Construction Act, it also seems to reflect a growing commitment by the public to support school improvement."

Spending in only 19 counties exceeded the state average of \$937 per student. In last year's School Finance Study, also sponsored by the forum, spending in 21 counties exceeded the state average.

According to Leousis, this trend indicates that the rich school systems are getting richer and the gap between them and poorer schools is becoming wider.

TEENAGER

(Continued from page 1)

of medium build with a mustache and wearing a baseball cap, dark tee-shirt, blue jean jacket and blue jeans.

Police said the holdup occurred just before 8 p.m. at the Beauty World Discount Supply Store on Chapanoke Road off South Saunders Street.

Police said the owner had already closed the store and cleaned out the bills from the cash drawer when a man insisted on entering the store. He apparently left without taking anything.

NAACP

(Continued from page 1)

NAACP has attempted to provide Mr. Samuel Longiotti names of persons who could serve as members of the task force or as independent consultants.

"We the Raleigh-Apex Branch of the NAACP deem it imperative that the task force be established in order to ensure that the promises made by the owners and managers of Crabtree Valley Mall are carried out. If the owners and managers still persist in delaying the implementation of the plan set by them, the Raleigh-Apex Branch NAACP will take whatever legal steps available to ensure that the stated goals set forth by representatives of the mall are brought to fruition."

LEADERSHIP

(Continued from page 1)

universities and national black organizations. Through the Distinguished Fellows Institute and the Leadership Development Institute the mission will be to develop and target top-level black talent.

Some services offered by the center include planning, evaluation, consulting, marketing, research, training, and publication development for colleges and universities, public school systems, foundations, corporations, community service agencies, political organizations, governmental and international agencies. The center has the capability of dispat-

ching teams of highly qualified professionals wherever needed to offer leadership or assistance in a broad variety of fields.

The center will begin operation on June 1 under the leadership of its president and chief executive officer, Dr. Lyons, with offices at 500 N. Capital St., N.W., Suite 801, Washington, D.C. 20001, (202) 737-2405.

BLACKS

(Continued from page 1)

judges deciding what sentences to impose—conscious and unconscious racism is at work, with the result that blacks are systematically treated more harshly than whites who engage in exactly the same conduct.

Moreover, federal government statistics indicate that black people are three times more likely than whites to be poor, and poor people are less able to effectively defend their rights in the criminal justice system. Those who don't have money, whether for posting bail, hiring a lawyer or paying a fine, are at greatly increased risk of incarceration. It's not surprising, therefore, that in 1983 half of all jail inmates had annual incomes of less than \$5,600 prior to their arrest.

More subtle factors are also at work. Lawbreaking in our society is rife, but not all laws are enforced with equal vigor. For example, the Bush administration's "war on drugs" focuses almost exclusively on the use of crack by mostly poor, black people. Illegal drug use by affluent whites, though repeatedly shown to be widespread, is simply not treated as a law-enforcement problem. In those rare cases where well-to-do white are prosecuted and convicted for drug-related offenses, they invariably receive a slap on the wrist. For example, John Zaccaro, son of former vice presidential candidate Geraldine Ferraro, was sentenced to one month of house imprisonment for selling cocaine to an undercover police officer.

Corporate violations of health and safety laws kill and maim thousands of people every year. But executives of the J.P. Stevens Co., for example, who subjected workers to conditions that caused serious lung disease, are far less likely to be arrested than the black youth who shoplifts from a convenience store.

The most obvious cases of the outrageously high rate of black incarceration are poverty and systemic racism, which place our folks in the position of being more likely to commit acts that the state defines as criminal. Most African-Americans are neither poor, homeless nor unemployed. But we are more likely to be so than whites, and for those of us who do suffer such deprivations it's not hard to understand why some turn to petty theft or small-time drug-dealing as ways to survive, or to drug use to deaden the pain and despair of their ruined lives. Indeed, the great tragedy is that for black youth growing up in the inner city, with virtually no hope of finding a legitimate job, criminal activity is becoming a rational economic choice.

The Reagan and Bush administrations, while talking tough on crime, have mercilessly slashed funding for programs aimed at remedying the conditions that contribute to crime. Low-income housing, job training and education have all been sacrificed in the take-from-the-poor, give-to-the-rich policies of these presidents—which is one reason why the number of young black men under the control of the criminal justice system is greater than the total number of black men of all ages enrolled in college.

Instead of giving us jobs, housing and education as crimefighters, Reagan and Bush have given us more police, more prosecutors, more prisons, longer sentences, and more executions; that is, more African-Americans behind bars and on death row. Even aside from its devastating impact on the black community, the lock 'em up strategy is a failure. Although the prison population has tripled since 1973, at tremendous financial and human cost, crime rates have remained roughly the same.

What to do? We must attack the nation's incarceration fever in general, and as it applies to black people in particular, on every level. We must closely monitor police, prosecutors and judges for discrimination against people of color and the poor, and work to remove from office those whose policies lead to discrimination. We must opt for meaningful crime prevention by expanding existing programs and developing new initiatives, including educational and recreational opportunities for youth. These programs must reach children as early as preschool and elementary school. And, whether publicly or privately funded, programs that target our youth must be developed with the full participation of the black community.

We must demand alternatives to incarceration such as diversion of young and first-time offenders, whose crimes caused no physical injury, out of the criminal justice system and into counseling, rehabilitation and other supportive programs. Numerous community-based alternatives to imprisonment for non-dangerous offenders already exist, including restitution to victims, community service, probation, and treatment programs. We must push for

greater use and expansion of these constructive alternatives.

We must insist that drug abuse be approached as a public health problem that demands education, treatment and rehabilitation, not as a grievous crime requiring long prison sentences. Other countries have taken this approach with considerable success.

As long as U.S. society systematically restricts the life opportunities of minorities and poor people even before they are born, black people will continue to end up behind bars in disproportionate numbers. While our short-term strategy must be to work for programs and policies that fight racism and poverty, the ultimate solution is nothing less than a society of truly equal opportunity, a society in which race and class status no longer limit people's ability to realize their full potential.

INSIDE AFRICA

(Continued from page 1)

against President George Bush's opposition to sanctions against South Africa as he emphasized black Americans' linkage to African liberation. Citing AME Bishop Henry Ward Turner as the first American missionary to the continent, Jackson said such black pioneers as Booker T. Washington, Marcus Garvey and Dr. William E.B. DuBois provided inspiration for the South African struggle long before Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Bishop Desmond Tutu.

Tracing black African history in southern African areas from the Nile River to the "Garden of Eden" in nearby Zambia, Jackson said changing political control in South Africa is necessary to improve conditions throughout the nation, including recently "liberated" Namibia which is still dominated economically by the neighboring apartheid government. The United States loaned only \$500,000 to the new government of Namibia and appropriated millions for Latin America and Eastern European countries—out of the African budget, said Jackson.

"Mandela is out of jail, but he's still not free. He still has to get permission to do what he wants to do," declared Jackson during his remarks at a Howard University symposium on South Africa. Other members of the panel said while de Klerk's government still Majority rule, it would support some sort of proportional representative democratic government with checks and balances "like we have in the United States."

After urging the students at Howard to join the campaign for eventual liberation of South Africa and "statehood for the District of Columbia," Jackson later joined Rep. Walter E. Fauntroy (D-D.C.), who is now running for mayor, in declaring that supporters "should be willing to go to jail" to demand the elimination of apartheid in South Africa and "taxation without representation" in the capital of democracy.

Oprah Says Not Ready Yet For Marriage Vows

RADNOR, Pa. (AP)—Oprah Winfrey isn't ready for marriage—and she should know.

"I've done so many shows about marriage and divorce and relationships that have failed," the host of a syndicated talk show said in the May 5 TV Guide. "I know it would be foolish to think you can have it all in one time."

"I think you can have it all. You just can't have it all at once."

Not that Winfrey is unhappy with her beau, Stedman Graham.

"I can't imagine or think of—nor have I seen or experienced—anybody who would be more ideal for me," she said.

But marriage, she said, "is a whole different responsibility that I can't handle right now. Now, I feel like he has his life, I have my life. It's fine just like it is."



ON TOUR—Airman Jacob B. Hughes Jr. has graduated from Air Force basic training at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas. During the six weeks of training the airman studied the Air Force mission, organization and customs and received special training in human relations. In addition, airmen who complete basic training earn credits toward an associate degree through the community college of the Air Force. Hughes is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Jacob B. Hughes Sr. of 5452 Jones Sausage Road, Garner. He is a 1986 graduate of Garner High School.

WILLIAMSTON WHISTLINGS

BY JOYCE GRAY

WILLIAMSTON—Annie James Bond of Williamston, the daughter of the late Milton James and Ms. Sarah James of Jamesville, wishes to announce her engagement to William R. Mebane, the son of the late Prof. Francis H. Mebane, Sr., and Ms. Lovena Whitley Mebane of Pantego, Saturday, June 30, at 1 p.m. at Uniontown Church of Christ, (Free Union) Jamesville.

An open invitation is extended.

The First Congressional District Black Leadership Caucus met in Washington on Saturday, May 5, in executive session. Plans were finalized for the printing of the annual raffle tickets which will be sold throughout the 21 counties.

Herbert Dawson, Craven County, will be chairman of the raffle and the drawing date will be Oct. 6 at the annual banquet.

Ms. Ernestine Hannon, Washington County contact person and assistant secretary for the caucus, will chair the annual retreat on June 23, which will be held in Washington's Cultural Arts Center. She will have George C. Bailey, Washington, as co-chair. The retreat will be open to the members of the caucus, their friends and the general public.

County contacts will share information as they receive it. And reservation forms must be signed and returned on time.

Each adult is encouraged to bring a youth to the retreat and encourage the youth to participate in the workshops.

Members of the Martin County Branch, NAACP, were requested by their president to be in court on May 7 in order to show moral support for Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Slade.

We finally got a late lunch at Ida's Fish and Chips and found that the food was simply delicious. Saw a few very familiar faces there enjoying a meal also. Ida's Fish and Chips is located on Gatling Street near Hwy. 17 Bypass.

Happy birthday greetings to Ms. Lucy P. Brown, Ms. Mary C. Britton, Ms. Mary Gibbs, Ms. Maude Eva Riddick.

On the sick and shut-in list: Ms. Jackie S. Brown, Ms. Marie Biggs, Ms. Daisy H. Biggs, Joe Biggs, Sam Brown, Ms. Armaza C. Roberson, Ms. Grace P. Smithwick, Ms. Roxie West, Ms. Annabel Best, Ms. Lola Lloyd, Robert Lee Barnes, George T. Hyman, Ms. Mattie H. Perry, Alton Bell, Ms. Mammie Keyes, Raymond Reese, Ms. Annie Bell Baker, Ms. Zara Chance. Not feeling very well last week was F.L. Joyner.

In Roper, Rudolph Wilkins and Leslie Ray Horton. Ms. Pauline Brown, Plymouth, is still a patient at Washington County Hospital.

Making his trip to New York safe and sound, returning on time to attend some of the candidates' socials was Shelton Riddick, Williams precinct chairman.

Ms. Frances Evans attended classes in order to be a productive Census worker.

Mr. and Mrs. Roscoe Harris drove to New Orleans and on their way back to Williamston stopped to visit friends and relatives along the way.

Church Women United donated all of the collection received at their May Fellowship Day program to the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Center on May 4.

Ms. Annie Spivey Jones was laid to final rest of this worldly life as we know it on April 30 at 3 p.m.

Ms. Jones, daughter of the late Joe and Hannah Spivey, was born March 10, 1879 in Franklin County. On Thursday, April 26, at Metropolitan Hospital, Richmond, Va., life's breath eased away.

She was united in holy matrimony to Rufus Jones who preceded her in death. To this union nine children were born, of which five preceded her in death.

Until her health prevented activities, she was a faithful, active member at seconess of the Phelps Chapel Baptist Church. Upon moving to Richmond, Va., she made her home with a daughter at 1 her family.

Those now cherishing fond memories of her: two daughters, Ms. Sallie Jones of Richmond, Va., and MS. Oza Jones of Newark, N.J.; two sons, Weldon and Edward Jones, both of Bunn; three daughters-in-law, one son-in-law, 10 grandchildren, 21 great-grandchildren, 21 great-great-grandchildren, many nieces, nephews and a host of other relatives and friends.

Attending the services from Williamston was Otis Smith, 410 E. Main St.

Rev. Howard Todd, pastor of Phelps Chapel Baptist Church, presided. Scripture was read from Psalms 23 and John 14:1-4 by Dr. Joseph Paige. Acknowledgement and obituary were by Ms. Carolyn Pace.

Services were provided by William Toney's Funeral Home, 516 Poplar St., Spring Hope. Interment was in the church cemetery.

On May 17, the 36th anniversary of the Brown vs. Board of Education Supreme Court decision, someone within these United States will take the time to explain to some young person the importance of that case. Hopefully, that young person will be so hungry for knowledge on the subject that more questions will be asked than there are answers for, thereby leading up to a trip to the library and visits to some retired educators and civic leaders.

In my opinion, school desegregation is beneficial to both black and Caucasian students and only a small portion of their learning should be obtained from those hours in the classroom. Parents, grandparents, ministers, neighbors and peers each share in the process of educating.

Extracurricular activities involvement should be encouraged by parents and personal attendance to these functions to give moral support as well. Black adults also should encourage students to run for various offices in every class, social club and community committee.

May 17 should never be allowed to become a "past history" date.

Many of Williamston's citizens took advantage of the open invitation extended on May 2 by Ms. Mary K. Wynne to attend a reception in honor of Ms. Phyllis G. Pearson. In attendance also were Mr. and Mrs. Cotten Rawls. Rawls was introduced to some members of the Williams Precinct.

He was asked about his daughter, Elizabeth, 8, who has been so busy trying to help get her daddy elected on the Board of County Commissioners.

Reports given are very favorable for the people of New Bern. They showed a first in the way they supported the Rev. W.L. Wainwright, a Democratic candidate for state representative, District 3, North Carolina General Assembly. The folks in Craven County proved two weeks ago that folks support whatever they want to.

Expressions of sympathy are extended to the family of the late George Owens. This earthly life ended early May 5 for Owens, who had lived at 106 Faulk St., Williamston.

A regular meeting of the Albemarle Political Action Committee was held on April 26 at the Fannie Parker Building, Edenton. Their poll indicated a preference for the following candidates: Harvey Gantt, U.S. Senate; Ellen Bradshaw Scouten, N.C. Court of Appeals; Janice Cole, District Court judge; Charles Foster and E.M. "Pete" Thompson, First House District.

The next regular meeting is scheduled to be held on Thursday, May 24, at the same location.

Happy wedding anniversary to Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Smith, their first.



POSITIVE PROGRAM—Coors Brewing Company has taken the lead with the recent unveiling of a billboard advertising campaign for its "Literary Pass It On" program. The billboard promotes the national toll free literacy information relay line. Left to right, Ivan Burwell, Coors national program, manager community relations, and Rev. James Russell, executive director Harlem YMCA.

Selma Parent's Group Calls For May Pray-In

SELMA, Ala.—Since Dec. 21, 1969, overruled Judge Johnson's order to incarcerate five African-American citizens for five days for contempt. The judge denied BEST's motion to stay proceedings pending a ruling on the appeal of the judge's order which prohibits citizens from tooting their horns, walking around City Hall on the walkway and from engaging in other constitutionally protected protest activities. Citizens were also arrested for sitting in chairs in front of City Hall.

Additionally, Mayor Smitherman wrote a letter threatening to cut off city services to Central Youth Services if the director, Danny Crenshaw, continues to actively support the end of racial tracking. The city has also arrested citizens for tooting their horns who are not involved in the protest. Ronald Peoples was charged with a felony on clearly fabricated facts, and one professor was beaten on the street in broad threats of economic reprisals have been used against black teachers, social workers and other citizens involved in the movement. The level of repression is daily getting worse. The School Board continues to meet secretly in violation of the Sunshine Law. The local district attorney has refused to allow arrest warrants to be issued against them as allowed by the Sunshine Law which makes secret meetings a criminal offense. No whites have been arrested though several attempts have been made by black citizens to swear out criminal actions against them. Dr. Rouseff is scheduled to leave the system by June 30. He was offered up to \$300,000 to leave, which he refused.

On May 19, Malcolm X's birthday, BEST is calling national leaders and supporters of Brown vs. Board of Education and quality education to join them in a 24-hour pray-in on the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma.