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## NCAE Prexy Blasts Teacher Salary Freeze; Plans Ed. Hearings

"Salaries are crucial to recruiting and retaining quality teachers in our state who can provide excellence in education to our children. NCAE will be working very hard to make sure the salary freeze is ended in 1992-93 and does not drag on for six years as the last one did."

With these words, Rose Marie Lowry opened her first press conference as president of the North Carolina Association of Educators. She acknowledged that the General Assembly had a difficult job balancing the state budget, but she said that "As professional educators we cannot be satisfied with the deep cuts in education."

The conference came at the start of NCAE's annual Summer Leadership Training Academy, which has registered 400 association leaders from all parts of the state, at the Downtown Holiday Inn in Raleigh.

Lowry also asserted that teachers want and need the option to retire without penalty after completing 28 years in the public education system. "NCAE is going to help them secure that option," she said forcefully.

Lowry saved the major portion of her remarks for school restructuring. In a time when parents want more from their public schools and children need more to be competitive in the economy of the world, Lowry minced no words.

"The classroom teacher and other school level professionals are the best people to say what changes are needed. We are going to make sure that the voices of classroom teachers are heard throughout this state," she said.

To publicize the opinions of classroom teachers and the results of NCAE reports on restructuring, Lowry announced that she will hold a series of public education hearings around the state starting in the fall.

"I want to gather testimony from citizens about the quality of education in their schools and ideas for new school reforms. I want to hear what the public has to say about the current method of financing public schools. And I want people in all parts of North Carolina to hear what classroom teachers want for the children in their schools."

Lowry released the findings of three new reports on school restructuring by the Instruction/Professional Development Commission of NCAE.

**Class size:** Classroom teachers know that class size is a major factor in how well children learn. NCAE is alarmed at what is happening in this state regarding class size. Since 1989 the number of classes exceeding maximum size has tripled. Approximately 55,000 children were in classes that exceeded recommended maximums last year.

Said Lowry, "As a principal and former teacher, I know from personal experience that we now have too many kids in one class. NCAE wants to see a daily teacher-pupil ratio of not more than 1:22. Instead of the present 1:25 in K-5 and 1:29.5 in grades 10-12. Since the law allows three more students in a class, this means that class sizes of 1:28 and 1:32 are presently legal under North Carolina law. This has to stop."

**Academic tracking:** "Tracking is an area of grave concern to NCAE," declared Lowry. "It has become one of the most controversial topics in public education today. Tracking is the practice of labeling children as fast or slow learners, judgments which are often made on the basis of a single test. Or it refers to students being placed in college-bound or vocational tracks."

Lowry stated her wholehearted opposition to this practice. "Calling some students academic and others nonacademic has a devastating impact on how teachers think about students and how students think about themselves."

Lowry said, "On the basis of its findings, NCAE will push strongly for heterogeneous groupings as a positive way to deal with all types of students."

**Certification:** "NCAE wants to go on record opposing any moves to water down certification of professional educators," declared

(See PREXY BLASTS, P. 2)

## NAACP Braces For Battle After Nixing Thomas Pick

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People on Wednesday ended almost two weeks of suspense by announcing its opposition to the nomination of federal Judge Clarence Thomas to the U.S. Supreme Court.

The group urged the Senate to block Thomas' confirmation in what is shaping up to be a loud and heated battle.

While other liberal, minority and women's groups had immediately expressed dismay after President

George Bush announced his choice of Thomas to succeed retiring Justice Thurgood Marshall, the NAACP's reaction had been guarded, saying that it needed to study the record and gather opinions from board members and constituents.

In opposing the nomination, the NAACP becomes the largest and strongest black interest group to hold that position. The National Urban League just last week announced that it would not oppose the nomination.

Dr. William Gibson, chairman of the NAACP National Board of Direc-

tors, said Thomas' nomination was not in the best interest of African-Americans, and cited Thomas as being anti-affirmative action an inconsistent on civil rights. "That makes Thomas a threat when the court is already radically conservative," Gibson said.

The NAACP is the nation's oldest and largest civil rights organization and is widely seen as the group best positioned to lead any serious organized opposition to Thomas.

One of the most vocal opponents of confirmation for Thomas has been

the Congressional Black Caucus, which reiterated earlier this week that Thomas "must not be nominated. Make sure that's clear. We're in no mood to compromise." Republicans on Capitol Hill are trying to paint the CBC leadership as out of touch with the black masses, who, according to polls, support the Thomas nomination by 56 percent.

At a news conference last week, the CBC presented a "bill of particulars." They know Judge

(See NAACP, P. 2)

### Crack Cocaine Use In Violent Crimes...

## Death Penalty Advocated

### Young Blacks Involved In Drugs Target?

The Senate's new crime bill is drawing opposition from federal judges and lawyers who contend it would impose billions of dollars in hidden costs on the criminal-justice system, seriously compound inequities in the sentencing of defendants with more black juveniles doing "hard time."

The measure, approved recently by a vote of 71 to 26, also could have a devastating impact on the federal prison system. In addition to imposing the death penalty for 51 crimes, the bill includes a new layer of mandatory minimum sentences for drug and gun offenses, provisions that could generate tens of thousands of new federal inmates at a time when federal prisons are operating at nearly 150 percent of capacity.

Democrats and Republicans are battling this session to see who can be the "toughest" on crime and the parties' proposals for a new Violent Crime Control Act is just that. The act expands the list of charges to which the death penalty can be applied and both target those involved in the drug trade for severe penalties.

The Bush administration has not taken a position on the amendments, but President Bush has said the crime bill is one of his top priorities, and administration officials praised the Senate version for including

(See TOUGH PENALTY, P. 2)



WRITING PROJECT—Margaret Douglass, left, middle school, Louisburg, give feedback on her writing to Jesse McClain, language arts teacher at Carrington Jr. High School, Durham. All are participating in the Capital Area Writing Project at NCSU.

## Wilder May Find Challenge From Jackson In Presidential Race

BY FRANKLIN TATE  
NNPA News Service  
(Part I)

In an exclusive interview for the NNPA, the nation's only black governor, L. Douglas Wilder of Virginia, spoke by telephone like the unannounced candidate for president that he is.

Fresh from a 10-day European trade mission that took him to London, Brussels, Warsaw, Hamburg and even Taiwan, however, Gov. Wilder was born into humble beginnings. One of eight children, "My father was an insurance salesman, and my mother raised a family... in between, she did domestic work," he said.

Divorced for 13 years, Wilder has three children. His only son, L. Douglas Wilder, Jr., is an attorney with his father's former law firm in Richmond.

The nation's only black governor since Reconstruction is a product of historically black colleges. "I graduated from Virginia Union University," he said, "and received my law degree from Howard University Law School."

Before winning the governor's seat, he served in the Virginia Senate and won his first statewide election by becoming lieutenant governor.

Wilder is very proud of the fact that his state's population is only about 19 percent black, and the black voting population is about 15 percent, but he received 41 percent of the white vote in the gubernatorial race in 1989.

With such resounding proof of ability to attract white votes, the governor formed a committee to explore his prospects for the presidency three months ago. He made his second trip to Iowa, the first caucus state, in early May and campaigned as though he were an announced candidate.

When asked if his bachelor status

(See CHALLENGE, P. 2)



GOV. L. DOUGLAS WILDER



REV. JESSE L. JACKSON

## Innovative Child Project To Local Community Ctrs.

The 1991 Summer Playground activities designed for children in several of the community recreation centers are innovative in many ways. One such program is called Music On Parks.

"It was quite unusual and unique the way that this program got started," says Carol P. Langley, who coordinates educational programs for the Raleigh Parks and Recreation Department.

In October 1990, Willie Jordan, a well-known music educator, began her work with Raleigh Parks and Recreation as music consultant to the reading program, Radical RAP (Reading At Parks) and the summer's Math Magic Program.

"When the new Math Magic Program was established," says Ms.

Langley, "the age groups to benefit from this program include children ages 9-12. This left another large group of children, ages 6-8, without any structured activity, who would also be present during the same time slots as Math Magic."

The sites include Roberts, Campbell, Method, Walnut Terrace, Biltmore Hills, Halifax, Chavis and Southgate. The immediate opportunity was initiated for Ms. Jordan to organize and write lesson plans for MOP.

The basic objective was to teach music as an art of communication that includes structured listening, singing, and music history. During the first week of this program, July 1-5, the children were taught about

(See CHILD PROJECT, P. 2)

### NEWS BRIEFS

#### WACHOVIA NAMES NEW ASSISTANT V.P.

Suzanne H. Castleberry has been elected assistant vice president for Wachovia Bank. This announcement was made by Thomas A. Bennett, vice chairman, following a meeting of the Wachovia Board of Directors.

Ms. Castleberry joined Wachovia in 1986 in Charlotte as supervisor of the lockbox services area. She was elected operations officer in 1988. She transferred to Winston-Salem as manager in the corporate operations support unit in 1988. Ms. Castleberry assumed her present position in Raleigh as the corporate and retail account services manager of the Central Region Operations Center in January.

#### LIONS HONOR MEMBER

Thomas B. Ferrone of Raleigh, immediate past president of the North Raleigh Lions Club, has been presented the prestigious Melvin Jones Fellowship Award.

A fellowship pin and plaque were presented to him at the club's installation of officers on July 15. A Melvin Jones Fellowship is the highest honor a Lion can achieve. In the United States, it is often given to Lions judged by their peers to be unusually generous with their time and talent. The Lions Club

## J. D. Lewis Files For City Council At-Large Seat

J.D. Lewis, a longtime resident of the Raleigh community, filed Wednesday as a candidate for one of the city's two at-large council seats.

Lewis said he is not running against any candidate, but rather for one of the seats.

On Tuesday, Frank L. Turner said that he would not seek re-election to his council seat, an at-large seat he won by a two-vote margin in 1989. Turner, a retired assistant personnel director for the state, said he decided against a second term because he needed to spend more time with his rental business.

Lewis is currently corporate affairs director for Capitol Broadcasting Co., a former television editorialist and host of some of the station's issue-oriented public affairs programming.

"I have been asked to run for many years," Lewis said. "But my jobs prevented me. So I elected not to do it—not to wear two hats. Although I have always had an affection for the town and the community and if I can help in any way make it a better place I will be happy."

Lewis also hosted a popular teen dance show on television for 22 years, "Teenage Frolics," and is an accomplished speaker on various issues from education to development.

The filing deadline is Aug. 9. If Charles C. Meeker, a former two-term council member, decides to run, he will likely join a crowded field for the two at-large seats.

Wake School Board member Henry C. Knight, in an announcement Wednesday, said he plans to run. Knight earlier this month had an-



J.D. LEWIS

nounced that he would not seek another term on the Wake Board of Education. "I also said that I was not ready to stand on the sidelines politically and would be interested in seeking an at-large seat on the Raleigh City Council, if the opportunity presented itself," Knight said.

The recent announcement by Mr. Turner has afforded me that opportunity. Raleigh is an exciting city. She has grown from a sleepy, Southern capital to one of the best places in the world to work, play, study, and raise a family," Knight said.

Anne S. Franklin, the council's other at-large member, said recently that she planned to seek re-election to a third term.