

NEWS BRIEFS

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NAACP has asked the Wake County School Board to take \$3 million earmarked for white academically gifted students, and spend it on giving regular students more teachers, and smaller classroom sizes.

Rev. H.B. Pickett, in a letter sent to the Wake County School Board Monday, criticized county spending on gifted children. Reportedly, Wake County spends three times the state allotted sum on AG students, 78 percent of whom are white. Pickett says that redirecting spending toward regular students will give them incentive to learn. "Gifted students are given all these incentives to do something they would normally be doing anyhow," he said. Educators counter that they are following a 1977 state law that mandates the spending, but the state only provides a third of the cost.

VIOLENCE HAS N.Y. CONNECTION

Raleigh police say drug-related violence is to blame for a rash of killings involving New York residents in the last year. The latest killing occurred last Sunday night when Selwyn Alberty of Brooklyn, N.Y. was shot and killed after fighting several men in the Halifax Court housing project. By press time, police had no suspects, but indicated that several in the area were being interviewed. In the last 12 months, authorities say drug runners from New York City have been clashing with local dealers. In November, the bodies of two Brooklyn men were found in bushes behind Wake Medical Center. Police say they were drug "mules."

FORUM TO SAVE BLACK MALES

How do we stem the tide of violence and save our young black males from a life of death and destruction? That will be the focus of the Male Alliance for Life Extension, a two-part forum planned for Saturday, June 20, at St. Augustine's College, and Saturday, June 27, at Shaw University. Discussion will center around violence prevention. The forums are sponsored by the Wake County Public Health Department's "Brothers to Brother" project and are free to the public.

NAACP

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"We see little difference in injustices perpetrated against human decency in both instances. The not-guilty verdicts in the King case are outrageous, a mockery of justice. Clearly, they send an inviting sign to other law enforcement officers so inclined, that anything goes in the name of law enforcement."

Planning for the rally began the next day. Sacramento was selected because it is the state capital and there are several bills before the Legislature dealing with police conduct toward citizens.

Dr. Hooks expressed his anger at the verdicts in a number of interviews with national media, and on May 1, when he and other African-American leaders met with President Bush at the White

House.

He also vehemently condemned the riot that broke out after the announcement of the verdicts in public statements and in private meetings with Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley and California Gov. Pete Wilson on May 3 in Los Angeles.

At the Sacramento rally, Dr. Hooks told the crowd that the NAACP was marching in the tradition of the nonviolent protest movement, and because America cannot merely accept a business-as-usual posture following the riots which saw more than 50 people lose their lives and caused millions of dollars in property damage.

Dr. Hooks also announced a list of NAACP demands for national action.

"The development of civilian police review boards in every city where there are none—and the strengthening of those that do exist.

"The initiation in every police jurisdiction in the country of psychological screening for all prospective employees, and the periodic screening of those on duty.

"The inclusion of sensitivity training in all police training and more racial, ethnic and sexual diversity on police forces.

"The invoking of Title 18, Section 241-242 of the Federal Code to ensure that the officers in the Rodney King case face the possibility of federal charges.

An especially moving part of the program occurred when Camisha Ables, president of the Sacramento NAACP Youth Council, told the audience that what she had witnessed in the King beating had diminished her faith in America's system of justice.

"I don't understand how anyone can be beaten like that," she said, fighting back tears. "Society has compromised our civil rights." Still, Ms. Ables said that it is up to today's youth to carry on the fight to justice.

"The youth who marched today will carry on," Ables said. "Youth led this assemblage and we will lead you to the right place."

HERGET

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mark when he made it."

After Ingram, a bystander to a police raid last November, was shot and killed by Officer Vincent Kerr, an SBI investigation, a grand jury and a police administrative review all cleared the officer of any criminal or procedural wrongdoing. Kerr, who is black, claimed that Ingram refused his orders to stop, and seemed to be reaching into his coat pocket for a weapon. Investigators found no weapon on Ingram's person after the shooting.

But Ingram's mother, Ms. Soloana Ingram, and other members of his family have refused to accept the police version of the shooting. They, along with other members of the community, have marched several times from Chavis Way in Southeast Raleigh to the Municipal Building downtown. Each time they've taken to the streets, marchers demanded "the truth," or they promised, "No justice, no peace."

Last Saturday, in a driving rain after yet another march, Councilman Herget's remarks gave Ms. Ingram and her supporters still more reason to demand another, and in her opinion, more complete, investigation into her son's death.

"I couldn't believe what I heard. I couldn't believe that I was hearing him say it," said Ms. Ingram. "He's supposed to be an educated man, he's a city councilman because we voted him in... He's stupid!"

Ms. Michelle Moss, Ms. Ingram's niece and frequently a family spokesman since the tragedy, was equally critical.

"My first response... My mom and I looked at each other and said, 'This guy must be Dan Quayle's brother.' He watches too much TV," said Ms. Moss.

She added that despite what Herget or other members of the City Council think or feel, perception to them about the black community's problems with the Raleigh Police Department are very real to those who have faced those problems. She also commented that in the only police shooting since the death of her cousin, a dog was shot in the leg, "and even then they managed to only wound, and not kill that animal," she said.

The question of the FBI civil rights investigation into the Ingram case came only after City Manger Dempsey Benton and Police Chief Frederick Heineman announced that the U.S. Justice Department had closed its review of the January 1991 police shooting of Tony Farrell.

Farrell, an African-American television engineer, was shot and

wounded by a plainclothes Raleigh police detective, after he was mistaken for a robbery suspect. Though Chief Heineman said the shooting was justified, the city settled out of court with Farrell for \$200,000.

As part of a new set of procedures adopted in the aftermath of the Farrell shooting, the council required that when a Raleigh police officer shoots a citizen causing injury or death, the Police Affairs Committee must be convened within five business days for a preliminary report from the police chief, the SBI must be asked to probe and issue a report to the Wake County district attorney, and that the DA then impanel a grand jury for possible indictment of the officer.

Although they acknowledge the option of requesting a civil rights investigation by the FBI, the new procedures do not require it. When Rev. David Foy, community activist, raised the question of an FBI investigation during last week's meeting, many in the hearing room assumed the council had already made such a request, until Councilman Herget's remarks.

But according to Special Agent Chuck Richards of the Charlotte FBI office, race does not play a factor in whether or not a police officer may violate a person's civil rights. "It doesn't matter what ethnic origin or race... If you're a law enforcement officer and you make an arrest, you can't abuse the prisoner," he said.

SAVE CITIES

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sector continuation of the Kerner Riot and Eisenhower Violence commissions established by President Lyndon B. Johnson in the late 1960s to address "inner city violence, civil unrest, drug use, the school drop-out rate and welfare dependency." Most of the recommendations of the two groups have never been implemented because of lack of funds and now, new proposals are being considered following the 1992 riots about 25 years later. The organization was founded by Dr. Milton Eisenhower, brother of the late President Dwight D. Eisenhower.

"The [proposed new] policy is just common sense. It is based on what works," Curtis declared. Unlike those who claim that the nation lacks the knowledge or ideas to save today's youth and cities, the Eisenhower Foundation concluded, "We know enough to act and can't afford not to act," said Curtis. "The issue is not knowledge or money. The issue is adequate political leadership and political will from both parties."

"These problems were not created overnight. We've known about them for decades. It stands to reason, therefore, that their solutions can be no quick fix," Curtis continued. "However, we don't need another federal study that will drag on for months or years. The solutions that work already have 'bubbled up' from the grassroots."

When asked who should pay the price tag set for the foundation's new recommendations, Curtis replied, "We need to bust through the budgetary... wall that has blocked the use of military and foreign aid for domestic spending. We found the money for the Gulf War. We found the money to bail out the savings and loans. We can certainly find funds to save the youth of inner cities."

Increasing taxes on gasoline, cigarettes and alcohol would provide new funds while improving health-related conditions, the report states.

BAKER

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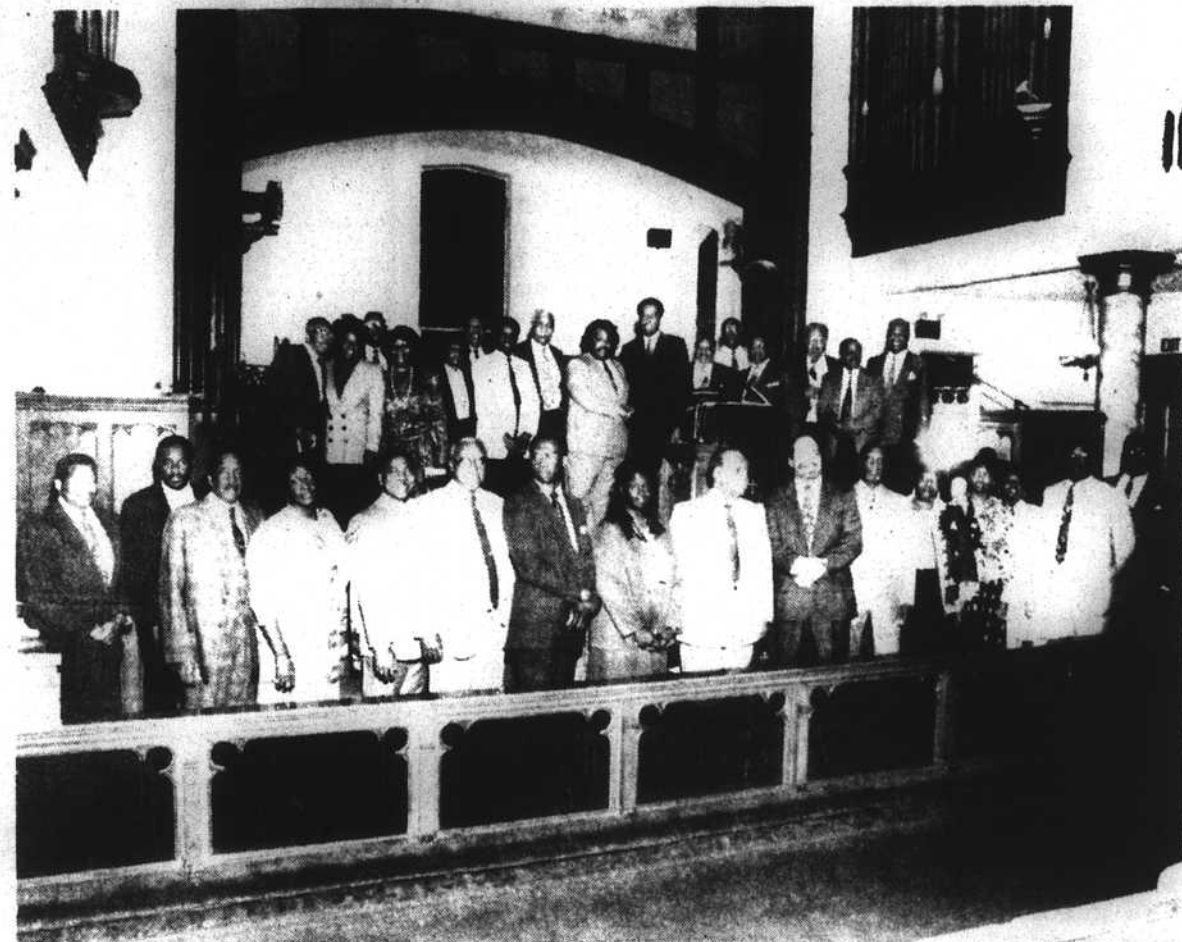
saying giving them a structured program of weekend incarceration would be an option that would entail supervised study and work, would help them realize that crime is not worth it. This weekend incarceration would be an option for judges to consider to give wayward youth a chance not to develop a criminal record. Baker emphasizes that this program would be designed not to interfere with school studies. Several other resources agencies can input into this model to help troubled youth and their parents work together to find the answers.

3. Making the department more accessible to youth. There will now be a conscious effort on the part of Wake sheriff's deputies to become more involved with young people through a variety of new programs.

"Stop and Talk"—officers during their daily patrol will stop to engage in positive conversation about their lives and their community. "I want the youth of this community to come to know law enforcement officers as people, and



HONORARY DEGREES — Peter H. Coors, president of Coors Brewing Co., and William H. Gray III, president and CEO of the United Negro College Fund and former Pennsylvania congressman were among the recipients of honorary doctor of humanities degrees from Wilberforce University. The degrees were awarded at the university's commencement ceremonies held May 16. Left to right are: Peter Coors; Dr. John L. Henderson, president of Wilberforce University and William Gray III.



RECEIVING SUPPORT — "My election is in God's hands," stated Rev. Al Sharpton, second row center) at special endorsement ceremonies at the Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Harlem last week as he received the spiritual and financial support of the

not just symbols of governmental authority," says Baker. He wants his officers to visit schools before and after classes to provide a presence and engage youth in conversation.

"DARE"—this nationally recognized anti-drug program has been very effective, and Sheriff Baker wants to secure more funding to expand it to more elementary school children. The Drug Awareness and Resistance Education program will continue to be a centerpiece of the sheriff's youth effort.

"Assembly programs"—Sheriff Baker, along with members of his Crime Prevention Unit, and celebrity sports figures, plans to personally visit county schools upon request to talk with young people during assemblies about issues surrounding drugs, alcohol and youth crime. Baker sees this as a way to exhibit positive role models to young people.

Sheriff Baker also recommended enforcement assistance to the schools to help protect young people from violence and weapons. His department, upon request, will provide canine search on campus for drugs, and metal detectors for on-campus weapons. Baker says his officers will continue their undercover operations to eliminate drug and weapons traffic through the schools.

"These are the areas in which I believe that we at the Wake County Sheriff's Department can better serve the citizens of Wake County, in an effort to combat youth crime. We cannot control the home environments of these youths. We can only reach these youths through the institutions that we control, specifically the schools, the courts and perhaps our churches. As for the Sheriff's Department, I offer these suggestions and welcome your comments and suggestions. The prize is our young people. I suggest they are worth fighting for," said Baker.

EVA CLAYTON

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the Clayton campaign, but who lives here in Raleigh, is Bruce Lightner, community activist.

"Eva Clayton represents a golden opportunity to elect an African-American female who traditionally has been underrepresented in elective office. I'm very proud to have been a part of her victory, and look forward to helping Ms. Clayton in the general election," said Lightner.

Everett Ward, executive director of the North Carolina Democratic Party, expressed similar pride in Ms. Clayton's victory.

"We are very proud to have Eva Clayton on our ticket. She has a long history of public service, and she has shown that she can bring people together," he said.

In other election results, Republican Teena Little defeated conservative African-American Vernon Robinson for the GOP nomination for state superintendent of public instruction. She will face Demo-

cratic incumbent Bobby Etheridge in the fall.

—CASH MICHAELS

PTA Offers Workshops

The North Carolina PTA will send leadership training teams to six different locations across the state during July. These day-long workshops are designed to help local leaders strengthen their abilities and introduce them to a variety of activities, services and programs available to them as local unit leaders.

The three eastern locations and dates are July 9, Elizabeth City; July 10, Wilmington; and July 11, Goldsboro. The western dates are July 16, High Point; July 17, Union County; and July 18, Asheville. Covering all parts of the state allows local leaders to choose the site nearest and most convenient.

Workshops are offered for presidents, treasurers, and membership chairmen.

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RUN FOR THE OAKS

Saturday, June 13, 1992
Raleigh, North Carolina
5K Run - 8:00am
Call 890-3285 for an entry form.
City of Raleigh
Parks and Recreation