



September-October 1990

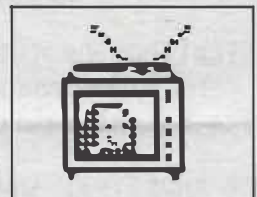
CENTER STAFF INVITED TO TESTIFY ON HOMELESS

Mike McLaughlin, associate editor of the Center's quarterly journal, *North Carolina Insight*, told the Legislative Research Commission Study Committee on Homeless Persons that North Carolina had failed to develop a comprehensive policy on the homeless and had missed out on substantial federal funding available for programs. In a public hearing at the state Legislative Building on Sept. 20, McLaughlin asked the committee to recommend that the state: (1) conduct a new count of North Carolina's homeless; (2) create a catalogue of resources available to help the homeless and make that list available to the homeless in every county; (3) seek re-authorization for the homeless study commission from the 1991 General Assembly; and (4) develop a Homeless Assistance Act for consideration by the 1993 General Assembly, when both more data and more money would be available to draft a cohesive policy and provide more services for the homeless.

McLaughlin, the author of a number of *Insight's* in-depth articles on such topics as solid waste and recycling, prison reform, and conditions of state parks, was invited to testify before the committee after the June 1990 issue of *Insight* hit the streets. That issue contained new research by McLaughlin on the homeless issue and focused new attention on the problem in North Carolina. Early indications are that the study commission will consider all of the Center's recommendations and possibly expand upon them to provide more services to the homeless across the state. At this time, the legislative study commission has scheduled two public hearings in October on the subject -- one each in Charlotte and Fayetteville. Stay tuned for more on this important subject -- especially as winter approaches and as the economy continues its unsteady ways.

TUNE IN PUBLIC TV IN NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER FOR MORE OF CENTER'S RESEARCH

The Center's going back on television this fall and winter with more joint productions with North Carolina Public Television. You'll recall other special projects the Center has conducted with the UNC Center for Public Television -- the two-party political system, for-profit hospitals, poverty in North Carolina, and solid waste disposal and recycling programs. Now there's a new lineup to watch. On Nov. 29, 1990, at 7:30 p.m. you can watch "The Parks We Pay For", a program on North Carolina's aging and under-funded state parks which is based on the October 1988 issue of *Insight* containing the Center's research on the subject. Then on December 20, 1990, also at 7:30 p.m., you can watch another program based on Center research, "Promises in the Promised Land." This program will explore land use controls in the mountains of North Carolina and whether the state needs more controls to protect precious resources in the mountain counties. The project stems from research conducted by Center Intern Dale McKeel and Associate Editor Mike McLaughlin. The duo surveyed all 100 counties and found that the western counties had far fewer types of growth controls and planning procedures than does the populous piedmont or the 20 coastal counties which are under the aegis of the Coastal Area Management Act. CAMA passed 15 years ago while a Mountain Area Management Act died at the same time.



LATEST INSIGHT DRAWS VARIED COVERAGE IN NEWS MEDIA

Its not really news anymore that the Center's products are featured around the state in the news media -- that's been the case for years, but the coverage seems to find new dimensions each year. Take the September 1990 issue of *Insight*, for instance. The Center put out a press release on that issue's "In The Courts" column, which contained original research on the state's 261-judge judiciary and which found, among other things, that most judges are appointed, not elected. We also found that more judges were appointed by Gov. Jim Hunt than by Governor Martin and that most judges went to the UNC law school. The article got a nice ride on the Associated Press and United Press International wires.

But there was other coverage as well. The Center also sent out the text of another article on work force preparedness in North Carolina. It was a long piece by newspaper standards -- around 4,000 words -- but Sunday editors at two newspapers -- *The News and Observer* of Raleigh and *The Salisbury Post* -- reprinted the piece, with local pictures, practically intact. That's one more way in which the Center gets its products out to the public.

And then there's our increasing success in the broadcast world. The N.C. News Network and several radio stations are regular users of the Center's products, and public radio increasingly is using them to the best advantage. Listeners on October 9 and October 10 who were tuned into National Public Radio's "Morning Edition" heard about the Center's research on the North Carolina break in that program. The two-part series on those days examined the Center's pro/con articles on governance of the state public education system. New State Board of Education Chair Barbara Tapscott specifically cited the cover art of the September issue -- the sixth *Insight* cover done by nationally syndicated cartoonist Dwane Powell -- as a particularly apt illustration of the three-headed nature of the state's education system, where the governor, superintendent of public instruction, and State Board of Education all vie for leadership.

BIENNIAL LOBBYIST RANKINGS GOT A GOOD LONG RIDE, TOO

The Center's biennial rankings of lobbyists' influence also get a pretty good ride in the news media, and the 1990 rankings -- conducted by Center Policy Analysts Lori Ann Harris and Kim Keschull -- were proof that the public loves to know who's number one. This year there was no real surprise at the top, with former legislators and lawyers scoring high as usual, but what was new was the emergence of young professional lobbyists, many of them women and increasingly from the ranks of public interest groups, who did well. The news media recognized that as a significant trend and reported it accordingly. So far, the lobbyist rankings have brought in 34 articles in 29 newspapers and 2 stories in other media outlets -- *North Carolina Magazine* (published by N.C. Citizens for Business and Industry) and *Newsbeat* (from Legal Services of North Carolina).

PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST: CLEAN WATER FUND STUDY

There's trouble, but not irreversible damage, in North Carolina's rivers and streams says a recent publication by Clean Water Fund of North Carolina. *Trouble Downstream: A Citizen's Guide to Surface Water Protection in NC* documents the growing stresses on our water supplies, industrial pollutants, runaway development, and pressures from the state's increasing population. It provides a thumbnail sketch of each N.C. river basin and a discussion of the regulations designed to protect them. In addition, *Trouble Downstream* gives citizens who want their rivers protected the information they need to make a difference. Copies of the 70-page guide are available from CWF-NC, 138 E. Chestnut St., Asheville, NC, 28801, for \$10 for individuals or non-profit groups; \$15 for government agencies; or \$25 for business or industry.

WHEN YOU WISH UPON A STAR

Over the years, several members have befriended the Center by contributing office machinery, technical assistance, or office furnishings. So if you want to dispose of one of the items listed below, please contact Nancy Rose at (919)832-2839. Our current wish list includes the following: 3 IBM-compatible computers and printers; a typing chair; three 4-drawer, legal-sized file cabinets; and a document scanner for the IBM family of PC's.

A WARM WELCOME TO THESE NEW CENTER MEMBERS

Mike Aiken	John A. Eberhart	Anne Reynolds
Robert J. Alligood	ElectriCities of North	Gregory B. Sampson
James O. Barber	Carolina, Inc.-Library	Linda Shaw
Bertie County Board	Todd H. Fennell	Paul Tax
of Education	Amy B. Gray	Tyrrell County Board
Anna Neal Blanchard	R.M. Jessup, Jr.	of Education
Donald Chalker	F. Whitney Jones	Ruel W. Tyson, Jr.
Peter Chastain	Chet Mottershead	Judith Wegner
John W. Davis, III	R. Bryan Padrick	

We welcome the N.C. Department of Public Instruction as a new full-service member and thank the Currituck County Board of Education and the N.C. Institute of Minority Economic Development for renewing as full-service members. This membership category includes all research reports in addition to *North Carolina Insight* and "From the Center Out." At \$250 per year, it's a good buy. If you're interested in becoming a full-service member, please call Mary Fant at (919)832-2839.

Special thanks also go to individual members who made special contributions during this quarter. They include Center board members Ronnie Capps, Hawk Johnson, McNeill Smith, Geraldine Sumter, Pat Taylor, and Frances Walker, as well as individual Center members William and Cleta Sue Keenan, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Merritt, and William Rustin. And, McNeill Smith was particularly creative in his gift this year -- his contribution was a transfer of stock.

CENTER RECEIVES FOUNDATION SUPPORT

The Haworth Foundation offered its support to the Center in September with a contribution of \$1000. Based in Morganton, this foundation emphasizes education in its giving priorities. This grant recognized the value of the September issue of *North Carolina Insight*, which included a pro/con discussion of whether to have an appointed or elected superintendent of public instruction in North Carolina. We are delighted to receive the Haworth Foundation's support for the Center and thank Howard Haworth for this donation.

OUR THANKS TO OUR CORPORATE CONTRIBUTORS

The Center wishes to thank and welcome these new contributors and corporate members:

Oldover Corporation	\$250
First Charter National Bank	200

And, the Center's continuing thanks go to these corporate foundations and corporations which recently renewed their support for the Center:

Carolina Telephone and Telegraph Company	\$1000	Asheboro Elastics Corporation	500
CooperTools	1000	Parkdale Mills	500
Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation	1000	E.I. duPont de Nemours & Company	400
Macfield Inc.	1000	The Chapel Hill Newspaper	350
NCNB Corporation	1000	United Guaranty Corporation	300
North Carolina Power Company	1000	N.C. Textile Manufacturers Association	250
N.C. Retail Merchants Association	1000	First National Bank of Randolph County	200
Rhone-Poulenc Ag Co.	750	N.C. Association of Educators	200
Burroughs Wellcome Company	700	N.C. School Boards Association	200
		Spanco Industries Inc.	200

Behind each of these contributions are many individuals who have been loyal to the Center over the years. Many have offered friendship through both financial contributions and through suggestions to better our services to policy debates in North Carolina. This summer, the Center mourns the deaths of three special friends in the state's corporate community: Jack Paylor of Piedmont Natural Gas Company; George Pate of Carolina Telephone and Telegraph Company; and F. Guy Walker of Raleigh Federal Savings Bank. Each of these fine citizens will be missed.

GIFT MEMBERSHIPS AND MATCHING GIFTS

Has anyone jolted you from October's summer-like weather by asking, "Have you realized that Christmas is only eight weeks away?" It's getting closer to that time of year again. But don't panic. Consider this. What is an educational, illuminating, stimulating, and provocative gift certain to surprise? What is a gift that requires no last minute shopping, no late-night assembly, no gift wrapping, no batteries, and keeps on giving? What is a gift that will please all your friends who are interested in North Carolina, its government, law, business and industry, and policy issues? This December, give the gift of *Insight*. A gift membership form will be sent to you in late November, or you may send an address and \$36 for individual membership to Mary Fant, N.C. Center for Public Policy Research, P.O. Box 430, Raleigh, NC 27602. We will notify the recipient of your gift by letter.

Many of you will be making year-end gifts to charities of your choice. You may be eligible to double or triple your gift through the company's matching gifts program if you are employed by one of the following companies: AT&T, American Express, American Tobacco Company, Avon Products Inc., Beatrice Companies, Bell South, Best Products, Burlington Industries, Burroughs-Wellcome, Carolina Steel, Coca Cola Company, Cooper Industries, Corning Glass, Digital Equipment Corporation, Equitable Life Assurance, Exxon, General Cinema, General Electric, Hoechst-Celanese, IBM, ITT, Ladd Furniture, McDonald's Corp., NCR Corporation, Norfolk Southern, North Carolina Power, Pepsico, Philip Morris, Pfizer Inc., Pitney Bowes, PPG, 3M, RJR Nabisco, Sara Lee Corporation, The Square D Company, Thalhimers, UPS, USG Corporation, Westinghouse Electric Corporation, or Winn-Dixie Stores. You may help your favorite charity by finding out if your employer is a matching gift company.

CENTER GETS RESULTS: FINAL DRAFT OF ENVIRONMENTAL INDEX PROPOSAL ON ITS WAY

Long-time readers of *Insight* and followers of the Center's work will recall the fall of 1988 when the Center made its ground-breaking call for the creation of an Environmental Index to document accurate assessments of the quality of our water, air, and land resources. Gov. Jim Martin endorsed such an index in his second Inaugural Address in January 1989. Martin appointed a blue-ribbon panel to develop proposals for what ought to go into such a program. *North Carolina Insight* Editor Jack Betts participated in that panel. In mid-1990, the panel produced what it called a "draft final report" on an "Environmental Indicators" program.

Now the N.C. Department of Environment, Health, and Natural Resources is reviewing the report in preparation for producing a "final draft report" outlining what should go into the index. That report will be presented to the governor this fall, and the department has announced plans to incorporate the index into its regular reports on the environment in North Carolina. Stay tuned for more on this issue, too -- especially as candidates call more attention to the state of the environment and argue over its condition. The Environmental Indicators program could change all that, providing hard data for a change.

N.C. Center for Public Policy Research
P.O. Box 430
Raleigh, NC 27602

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