



FROM THE CENTER OUT

The Newsletter of the North Carolina Center for Public Policy Research

July-August 1995

Insight, the Dog Days Edition

The next edition of *North Carolina Insight* promises to be hotter than the dog days of August. It's our back-to-school edition, and more than half of it is devoted to the topic of school choice. The package features a pro-con discussion of the use of vouchers or tax credits to pay for private school tuition. The pro side is by Vernon Robinson, president of the N.C. Education Reform Foundation, and the con side by Cecil Banks, president of the N.C. Association of Educators. *Insight* Associate Editor Tom Mather lays the groundwork with an introduction discussing various options in school choice, from magnet schools to public school open enrollment programs. Learn about the latest legislative action in the school choice arena, plus the prospects for the future.

Whether you're for school choice or against it, this is a don't-miss issue of *Insight*. Also in this edition: an analysis of Republican gains in the 1994 elections and a column that examines a court decision on anonymous speech in political campaigns. Plus, we'll take a detailed look at the North Carolina Railroad and its proposed new lease with Norfolk Southern. This article features recommendations on what to do about the railroad's ownership structure, in which the state owns 75% of the stock..

Center, WUNC Radio Share Award for Pesticide Project

The Corporation for Public Broadcasting has bestowed its award for Outstanding Outreach and Community Education on WUNC Radio and the N.C. Center for Public Policy Research for their joint project on State Regulation of Pesticides. At an awards ceremony in Atlanta on July 22, CPB officials said they were particularly impressed by the complementary nature of WUNC's broadcasts, which aired in September 1994, and the Center's report, which was published in the September 1994 issue of *North Carolina Insight*. WUNC General Manager Bill Davis accepted the award on behalf of Center Executive Director Ran Coble, *Insight* Associate Editor Tom Mather, and WUNC Correspondent Adam Hochberg.

WUNC's news series, entitled "The Pesticide Paradox," has won several other awards this year. It won first place in the enterprise news category for radio broadcasters from the Associated Press of North Carolina, as well as first place for a radio news series from the Radio/Television News Directors Association of the Carolinas. It also was the Southeastern regional finalist for the Edward R. Murrow Award. We at the Center are very pleased with the partnership with WUNC Radio and how it contributes to public education on public policy issues facing the state.

Coming attractions

Boldly going where no romance novelist has ever gone, *Insight* is forging ahead with a late fall edition on the relationship between state and local government. We'll look at federal and state mandates on local governments, discuss which level of government should offer what service, examine service demands on local government, and consider the taxing authority needed to pay for these services. Jackie Collins wouldn't touch it, but we've inked some hot authors of our own. In the same issue, we'll look at trends in state funding for the arts in North Carolina. Don't draw any conclusions until you read this article.



The Center's Mission

"The North Carolina Center for Public Policy Research is an independent, nonprofit organization dedicated to the goals of a better-informed public and more effective, accountable, and responsive government."

Asheville-Area Members Gather to Discuss Center Projects

On Friday, June 16, Center members, contributors, and friends gathered in Asheville to discuss the Center's latest research projects and to provide input on the Center's work. More than 30 people attended the luncheon, which was organized by Center Board member Ann Orr of Asheville. Ann welcomed the guests and introduced Ray Poston, Chairman of The Janirve Foundation, one of the Center's major funders. Mr. Poston praised the Center's role in improving the quality of public life in North Carolina. Center director Ran Coble also gave an overview of the Center's accomplishments and upcoming projects.

General Assembly Enacts Mission Statement for UNC: Teaching First Priority

In October 1994, Center Director Ran Coble testified before the Legislative Research Commission on the Status of Education at the University of North Carolina. He noted that Chapter 116 of the General Statutes, which contains most of the higher education laws, had no statement about the mission of the public universities. Coble recommended codifying a mission statement which would include the three UNC primary missions of teaching, research and public service, with teaching as first priority. The Center also recommended allocating money for teaching awards.

In the final days of the 1995 session, the legislature enacted the first-ever mission statement for the state's 16 public universities which includes instruction, research, and public service. The legislation states, "Teaching and learning constitute the primary service that the university renders to society. Teaching, or instruction, is the primary responsibility of each of the constituent institutions." The General Assembly also directed the UNC Board of Governors to instruct the 16 campuses that teaching is to be given primary consideration in making faculty personnel decisions regarding tenure, teaching assignments, and promotions. Finally, the legislature appropriated \$250,000 in each year of the biennium for teaching awards on the 16 campuses. The Center is pleased that three more of the recommendations arising from our study on how public universities evaluate and reward teaching have been enacted into law.

Legislature Extends Public TV Coverage to All of North Carolina

In February 1993, the Center conducted a review of media programs which bring coverage of public affairs and government to the citizens of North Carolina. This included the State Agency for Public Telecommunications, electronic town halls, a possible state-level C-SPAN, and the UNC Center for Public Television. The Center made several recommendations to increase the public's access to the workings of government. These included asking the legislature to appropriate funds to the Center for Public Television to allow its broadcasts to be picked up in all of North Carolina, particularly the southeast region. The 1995 legislature responded by appropriating almost \$2 million for the 1995-97 biennium for a TV tower in Lumberton to serve the southeastern region.

Welcome New Members; Thanks To Our Returning Supporters

(through July 31, 1995)

New Individual Members

Art Abell	Frank Crigler
Kate Ahlport	Michael Gritton
Elisabeth H. Butler	Mary Lou Moore
Jane F. Carswell	Raymond R. Rivers
Fred Corriher	

Individual Supporting Members

Dan Clodfelter and Elizabeth Bevan	Patric Mullen*
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Allyson K. Duncan	Anna Tefft and Win-Chiat Lee
Kathleen Bryan Edwards	C. Avery Thomas, Jr.*
Joel Fleishman*	Lawrence E. Thompson, III*
William Burns Jones, Jr.	Pat Whalen*

New Organizational Members

Ben McFadyen — Triad Health Project
David Tayloe, Jr. — N.C. Pediatric Society
Jacqueline Wynn — NC AHEC Program

Full-Service Members

George Daniel
The Duke Endowment

Special Gifts

Phil Kirk
Ann Orr

*indicates new individual supporting member

Center Receives Cannon Foundation Grant for *N.C. Focus*

The Center gratefully acknowledges a \$35,000 grant from **The Cannon Foundation, Inc.** in Concord, N.C. for a new edition of *N.C. Focus*, the Center's textbook on state government, state politics, and public policy issues for use in college and university classes in state and local government and in social studies classes in North Carolina's public high schools. The Center appreciates The Cannon Foundation's generosity and its interest in improving education in our state.

The Blumenthal Foundation Makes Grant to Center

The Center also would like to thank **The Blumenthal Foundation** for its \$2,500 grant for general operating support. This grant is the second installment in a 1994-95 \$5,000 pledge made by The Blumenthal Foundation to the Center. Thank you!

Special Thanks to our Corporate Contributors

(June-July, 1995)

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WFMY-TV

* Indicates new corporate contributors or those rejoining after an absence of a year or more.



*Article II: A Guide to the
1995-96 N.C. Legislature*
(\$22.50)

Index of Center Publications (\$10.60)
Lists all articles in *North Carolina Insight*,
research reports, and video productions with
UNC Public Television, Sept. 1977 -May 1994

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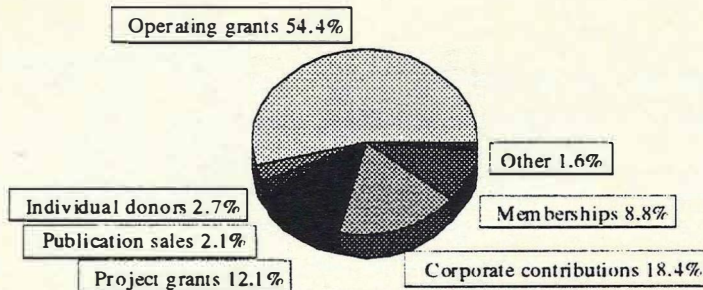
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Where the Center's Support Comes From and How We Protect Our Independence

Recently, we received a letter from a new Center member who moved to North Carolina from New Hampshire. She read our mission statement about being an "independent [her emphasis] nonprofit organization" and wondered how we could maintain our independence while taking contributions from organizations who might have a vested interest in the outcome of our research. We try to protect our independence in the following ways:

- By diversifying our sources of income so the Center is not overly dependent on one single source. The chart at the bottom illustrates this point.
- We put limits on ourselves — we do not accept any government money, we don't do any contract research, we do not accept more than \$5,000 in general operating support from any one corporation, and we don't accept advertising in our magazine.
- The Center's Board is set up to mirror the population of NC in its racial, gender, and geographic makeup, and in political party affiliation. They pick the topics for major studies first, and then we seek financial support.
- All draft articles and reports pass through a review process that includes at least 25 people — usually Board members, experts in the field, policymakers, people affected by the research or

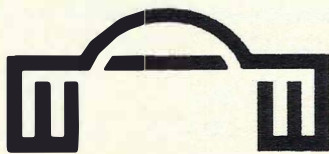
1995 Revenue Budget



	Operating grants - \$255,000
	Individual donors - \$12,528
	Publication sales - \$10,000
	Project grants - \$56,500
	Corporate contributions - \$86,000
	Memberships - \$41,000
	Other - \$7,500

quoted in the article, and people who know nothing about the topic but are just interested in it. This process helps ensure that any recommendations flow from the research and helps ensure accuracy.

■ The final protection is you, the Center members. If you see anything that endangers our independent research on your behalf as citizens, please don't hesitate to let us know.



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