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Mooreville's Academic Scholarship Recipients

Academic scholarship winners at Mooreville Senior High School are, from left, Denise Laughlin, Carmen Johnson, Margaret McGuire, Melodie Hinson, Leticia Martin, Kathryn Johnston and Jennifer Robinson. Second row, from left, Teresa Stewart, Margie Vargas, Aaron Mills, Kenneth Winecoff Jr., Jonathan Young and Chris Safrit.

Local Students Participate In Regional HOBY Program

Two local high school students were among the participants in a weekend seminar for young leaders. The western North Carolina seminar was sponsored by the Charlotte Jaycees. The purpose of the Hugh O'Brien Youth Foundation is to seek out, recognize and reward the leaders of tomorrow by conducting annual leadership seminars at the state and international level. Gray, a student at Mooreville Senior High, is the son of Richard and Paula Gray of Mooreville. Hackney, a student at South Iredell High School, is the son of

Bill and Kathy Hackney of Mooreville. The western North Carolina seminar was sponsored by the Charlotte Jaycees. The purpose of the Hugh O'Brien Youth Foundation is to seek out, recognize and reward the leaders of tomorrow by conducting annual leadership seminars at the state and international level. HOBY programs are designed to teach the students about life, its opportunities and how to make the most of them.

One man and one woman from each regional seminar earn selection to attend HOBY's International Leadership Seminar, where students from more than 20 countries will participate.

Actor Hugh O'Brien started the Foundation in 1938 after a visit to

Dr. Albert Schweitzer's clinic in Africa, where Schweitzer told him: "The most important thing in education is to teach young people to think for themselves."

The seminars are held at no cost to the students or schools.

Iredell's Jobless Rate Reduced To 6.6 Percent

Iredell County's unemployment rate fell to 6.6 percent in April of this year.

The county's unemployment figures, released as part of the Employment Security Commission of North Carolina's monthly report, show a 2 percent drop in the unemployment rate from March to April.

Iredell's jobless rate is higher than the state average — 5.6 percent — and substantially higher than the county's rate of one year ago — 3.2 percent.

The April unemployment rates in neighboring counties were:

Lincoln - 6.0 percent; Catawba - 6.6 percent; Rowan - 4.8 percent; Cabarrus - 4.7 percent; and Mecklenburg - 4.1 percent.

In April, the unemployment rate decreased in 62 N.C. counties, increased in 34 and remained unchanged in four.

Ann Q. Duncan, chairman of the ESC, said that the fact that the unemployment rate is leveling off or improving in most counties is good news for the state's workers and employers.

Nine counties in the state reported unemployment rates of 10 percent or higher. They were: Graham - 23.8 percent; Cherokee - 12.8; Swain - 12.8; Tyrrell - 12.4; Vance - 11.8; Wilson - 11.3; Brunswick - 11.0; Mitchell - 10.8; and Warren - 10.7.

Cornelius, Templeton Win County 4-H Talent Titles

Brooke Cornelius of Mooreville and Kenya Templeton of Statesville recently were named winners of the 1991 Iredell County 4-H Entertaining program. They will represent Iredell at district competition June 19 in Cabarrus County.

Cornelius, daughter of Preston and Marsha Cornelius, performed a Ballet en Pointe to "On My Own" from "The Phantom of the Opera." Cornelius is a member of the Horse Lovers 4-H Club. She is also a member of the Iredell 4-H Livestock Judging team and the Iredell 4-H Poultry Judging team. Cornelius is secretary-treasurer

of the Iredell 4-H County Council. Templeton, daughter of Carolyn Templeton of Statesville and Robert Templeton of Mooreville, performed a humorous soliloquy that she wrote entitled "M.C. Hammer Chicken." She is a member of the Ebenezer 4-H Club. Templeton is currently serving as president of the Iredell 4-H County Council.

Runners-up in the contest were Misty Winters of the West Iredell 4-H Club who performed a jazz dance and Jonathan Burchette of the Ebenezer 4-H Club who performed an Elvis impersonation.

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Public Trust Carries Heavy Responsibilities, Expectations

This material was written by Dr. Larry McGehee, vice-president for development and professor of education at Western College. It was provided free to newspapers by the Spartanburg, S.C. School.

A South Carolina legislator probably is going to prison soon for taking enough money to buy himself a \$2,000 set of golf clubs. He has been waiting while transportation to one golf game by Dan Quayle recently cost the taxpayers \$27,000.

In South Carolina two continuing state news story for months now have been about investigations and indictment of many state legislators and about the separate investigation and likely indictment of the state university's former president. Memories being as short as they are, the newspapers and reading public are acting as if bribery of legislators and abuse of office privileges by administrators are something new under the sun. Watergate seems distant and forgotten, and more recent abuses such as personal uses of government planes by Messrs. Sununu seem unrelated. Around 1939, four years after Huey Long was killed, quite a few Louisiana legislators and the president of LSU went to prison for malfeasances in their high offices. More recently, a Tennessee governor went from the executive chamber to jail.

Abuse of office and of power is a widespread and serious theme in American history and ought to be a major concern for our society.

What is distressing about all this is the tendency in coffeshop conversations for people to pass this tradition and current example of cracks in our institutions' leadership off all too lightly. Usually one hears the flip phrase: "Everyone does it; their only crime was that they got caught." I've been guilty of such levity myself, by commenting that University of South Carolina President Jim Holderman's sin was in thinking his office entitled him to privileges reserved for big name football coaches.

We are addressing here only personal trespasses upon the public operations of our institutions. To add to the catalog a list of violations of private morality by public officials, such as recent stories about Senators Kennedy or Robb, would make the topic even more depressing.

The issue here is a matter of Public Trust. How can the people have trust in their institutions if we concede that the propensity of institutional leaders is to violate that trust? Why are so many protectors of the public trust winding up as trustees in public prisons?

The frequency of reported violations in government, in televangelism, in education, and in entertainment, should lead us to suspect that something is as rotten today in America as was in Hamlet's Denmark.

What probably has gone wrong is that public leaders have been increasingly separated — in accountability and in funding — from the public. It is distressing, for example, to read that the decision to invade Iraq and Kuwait was almost unilaterally made by the President alone, over strong reservations from his military advisors.

What separates leaders from followers is a spotlight of symbolism and privilege. When Lee Iacocca declined Pennsylvania's offer for him to assume the seat vacated by Senator Heinz's death, the cynical and natural response was, "Why would any corporate

head making over \$4 million a year when his company's income declined 15 percent and after the federal government bailed it out, want to step down to being a mere Senator?"

What I am suggesting is that public office puts public officials into a spotlight of celebrity expectations. Unlike the old but not so distant days when public office was a side-line and part-time job for a farmer or lawyer, public office is now a full-time job. Officials are expected to make more public appearances and to maintain more frequent communications with the media

and with their constituents. Unfortunately, most such jobs don't pay very well. The salaries of elected officials at every level are pocket change to those of entertainment celebrities. The costs of getting elected and re-elected and of serving those voters are frightfully high, especially if there is no independent wealth in the family. With travel, staffing, entertainment, and communicating costing so much, it is a false savings for the public to demand that official salaries be kept as low as they are.

The public expects university presidents and elected officials

to move in celebrity circles. Celebrity circles are awfully expensive. Corporate executives, professional athletes, big-name doctors, and popular entertainers have enormous resources that seem to guarantee them celebrity status and privilege with impunity from public censure and prison.

To expect less-affluent politicians and educators to run equally with them without the resources for doing so is to invite the violations of public trust that we find happening.

But to expect politicians and educators not to try to run equally

with the celebrities and corporate executives is to confess to the subservience of politics and education and religion to the stock markets and entertainment industries. If that is the case, someone is running the country other than those elected to do so. That is an explanation of our public dilemma. But it is not an excuse. Until some way is found for disengaging the definition of Public Hero from Galactical Income is found, the nation will continue to court revolution from the masses denied the Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous.

So far, fortunately, the revolt

has been limited to a few state legislators, a few religious and education leaders who have been quite clearly saying, "It's not right to have to live in the public spotlight without the means to do so." Unfortunately, instead of correcting the excesses in the unaccountable corporate and entertainment worlds, they have tried to correct only their own low status. Sooner or later, the spotlight has to shift from penny-ante political shenanigans to deregulated personages and policies claiming both disproportionate incomes and immunity from public accountability.

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