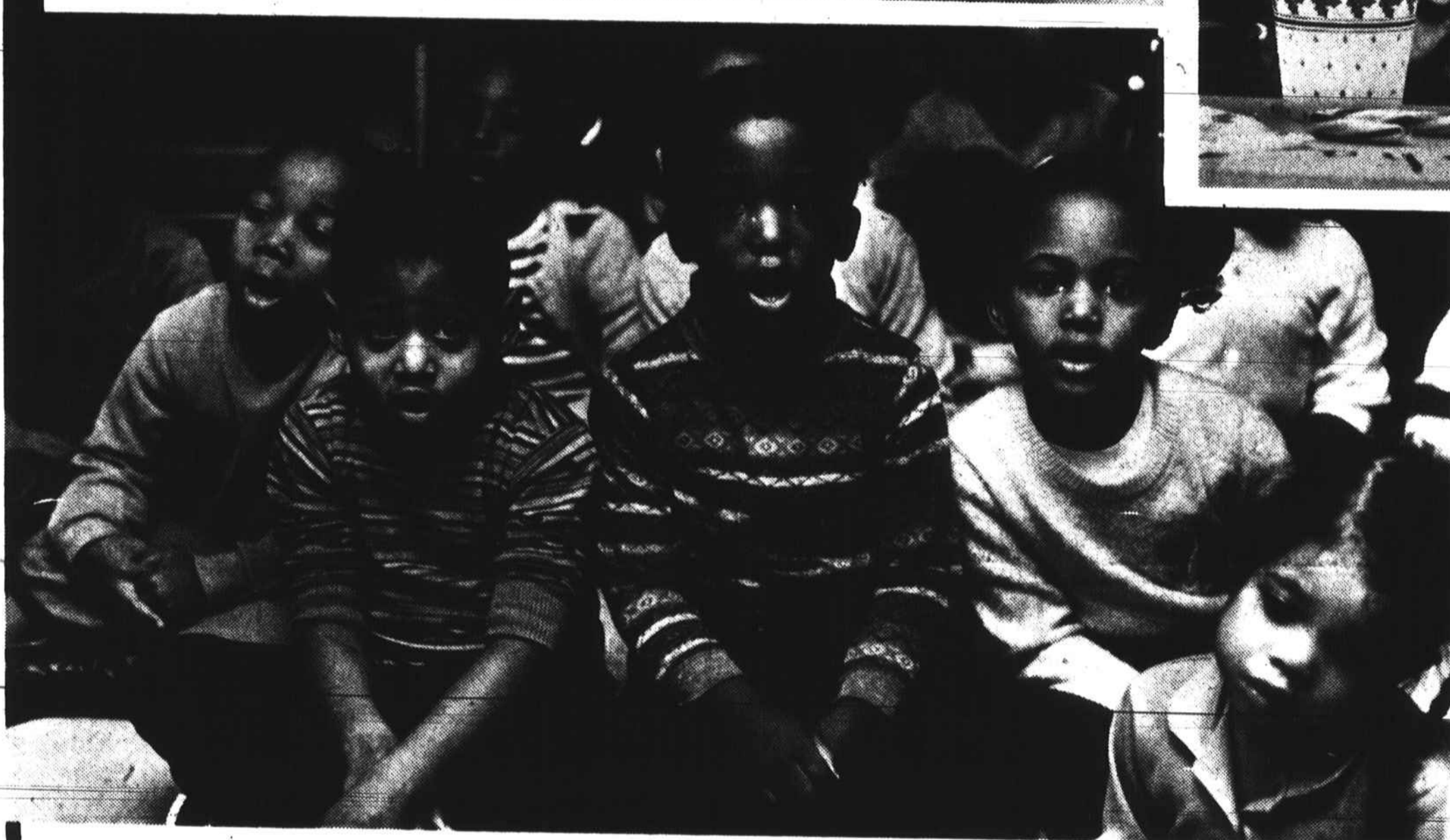
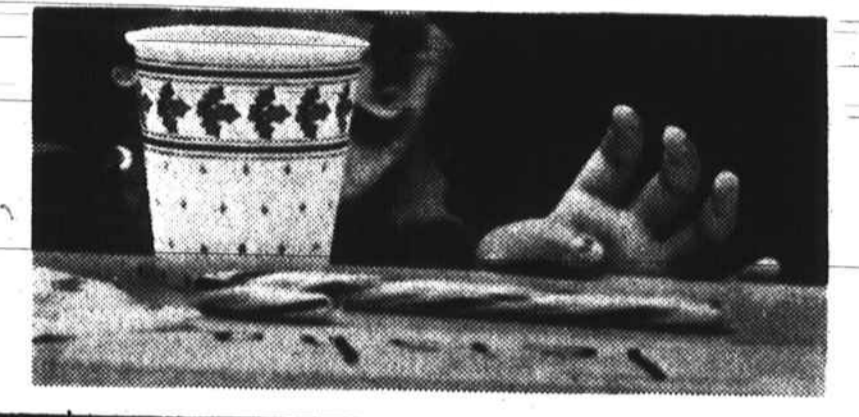


A HOLIDAY TREAT

Photo Essay By James Parker



Two-year-olds at Bethlehem Center are convinced that there is no reason more special than Christmas time. 'Twas a festive occasion last Monday when the "Santas" of the local Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority dropped in with a full bag of surprises. Andreus Wallace, top left, was especially fond of the sugar cookies and the punch they brought. Andreus' classmate, Teisha Eaton, top right,

preferred the candy canes. Disregarding the teacher's command to wait, Teisha got her first taste right through the plastic wrapping. At bottom left, the children sang everything from "Silent Night" to "Jingle Bells," the consensus favorite. Song time was much too long for Tiffany Kirkland, bottom right. Her thoughts, no doubt, drifted to images of candy canes dancing in her head.

The Newcomers

Hopkins' journey: From the football field to the field of medicine

By AUDREY L. WILLIAMS
Staff Writer

Compromising the distance between two families, Larry Hopkins put his home in Bossier City, La., up for sale and moved his family to Winston-Salem over a month ago.

Hopkins, who was an honor roll chemistry major at Wake Forest University, All-ACC football player and winner of the Brian Piccolo Award, is now a practicing gynecologist and obstetrician with Dr. Thomas L. Clarke in the Twin City Medical Building on the corner of Fifth Street and Cleveland Avenue.

Hopkins says he made the decision to move to Winston-Salem when he decided Charleston, S.C., wasn't where he wanted to move his practice and that Richmond, Va., has enough black doctors.

"After 20 years in the Air Force, my father retired to Charleston," says Hopkins. "My wife, Beth, is from Richmond and had started her career there, so it would have been ideal for her had we decided to stay there."

After a two-year stint in the Air Force himself, Hopkins says since both he and his wife, who is a former U.S. attorney, had been students at Wake Forest and had friends here, the decision was made to move to Winston.

"There are so few of us (black doctors) that so many of us end up going back

home," says the Chester, S.C., native. "You can really make a lot of money in cities like Richmond, but here I have time to relax and be with my family."

Hopkins says when he enlisted in the Air Force, he wanted to locate in the West, since that was one of the only places in the country he had not lived as a child of a military father. But because there was a need for doctors in Bossier, Hopkins was stationed there.

"I wanted to go to Andrews Air Force Base," he says, "or the base near Dallas, but I was sent to Bossier, which had about 250,000 to 300,000 people. Surprisingly, a metropolitan area like that had only seven black doctors."

Hopkins says he and his wife had considered making their home in Bossier, but came to the conclusion that the distance was too great between Virginia and South Carolina.

Even though Hopkins decided to return to Winston, this is not the first time he has made that decision. After graduating from Wake Forest, Hopkins says he entered Virginia State College to study for his master's degree.

"I was really scuffling," he says. "You know everybody thinks undergraduate is hard, but when you take four and five classes of chemistry, combined with one or two labs, that's hard."

Hopkins says he was always interested in

Please see page B6



After looking for a home between Richmond, Va., and Charleston, S.C., Dr. Larry Hopkins and his family settled in Winston-Salem (photo by James Parker).