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# The Charlotte Post

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IT'S BEGINNING TO FEEL A LOT LIKE CHRISTMAS... And there's no better way to celebrate than by singing Christmas carols. Pictured left to right, Sheraka McClinton, age 3, Gemayle Bennet, age 4, Latasha Harris, age 5, Clifton Osborne, age 4, and Theodore Jordan, age 4, give an exciting rendition of Rudolph The Red-Nosed Reindeer.

Photo by Calvin Ferguson

## Miracle On North Tryon Street

Charlotte, NC - Santa Claus came early for about 200 children in Charlotte this week, thanks to the Children's Christmas Miracle organization.

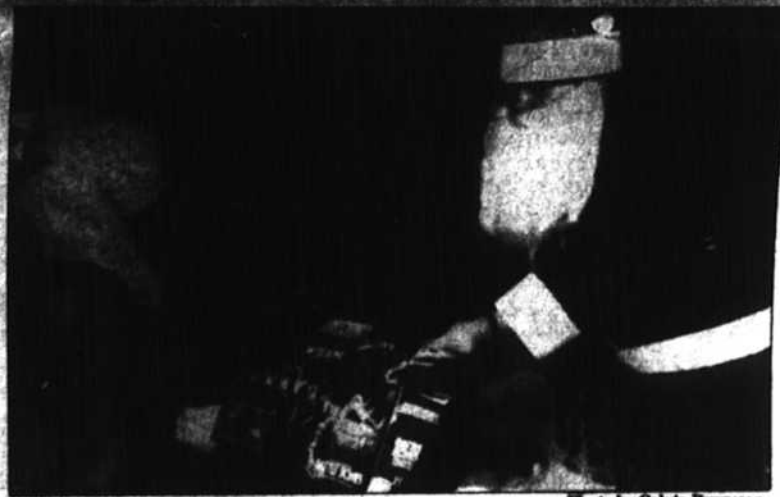
The children came from the Charlotte Housing Authority's day care centers for children from low-income families. The tots were treated to a big Christmas party at the Housing Authority's Hall House on North Tryon Street in Uptown Charlotte. The party featured all kinds of goodies, including stuffed bears and monkeys, games, clowns, dolls and other toys.

"All these were brand new toys given to us by the Children's

Christmas Miracle organization," says Bettye Harris, the Housing Authority's Director of Community Relations. "We've never had a big party like this before for our day care children wherein every toy and gift was something brand new," she adds.

The children all seemed to enjoy the party. Groups from each one of the day care centers took turns leading the singing of Christmas carols. Then Santa Claus arrived and the room buzzed with the children's excitement. Parents said the party

brought lots of joy to their children, whose Christmas otherwise would not have been quite so merry.



Four-year-old, Anthony Harris receives a special gift from Santa.

Photo by Calvin Ferguson

## Septima Clark, Civil Rights Leader Dies In S.C.

CHARLESTON, S.C. (AP) -- Government officials and civil rights leaders are mourning the passing of Septima Poinsette Clark -- a freed slave's daughter who rose to national prominence as a civil rights activist and educator.

Mrs. Clark, a friend of the Rev. Martin Luther King and Atlanta Mayor Andrew Young and counselor to former Gov. Dick Riley, died at a Charleston area nursing home Tuesday, December 15, at the age of 89.

"With the death of Septima Clark, the state has lost not only a leading civil rights activist but a legendary educator and humanitarian," Gov. Carroll Campbell said Wednesday. "Just as importantly, we have



Clark

lost a part of our collective conscience which calls out against inequality and injustice."

She had been in poor health for some months, said her brother Peter Poinsette. Mrs. Clark had a pacemaker implanted earlier this year and suffered a mild stroke in September, he said.

"She represented so much of what was good and right about people of any color," said Nelson Rivers, executive director of the South Carolina National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. "She worked almost until she died for the cause of freedom and justice."

Funeral arrangements had not been finalized late Wednesday.

Born in Charleston in 1898, Mrs. Clark was active in teaching blacks how to read and write so they could pass voting literacy tests during the civil rights

movement.

She graduated from Benedict College in Columbia and held a master's degree from Hampton Institute and began her long teaching career at a black school on John's Island.

In 191 she was instrumental in getting about 20,000 signatures on a petition to have black teachers hired by the Charleston County School District. Later, while teaching in Columbia, she helped in a campaign to equalize teacher salaries.

In 1956 she was fired from her teaching job by the Charleston County School Board because she was a member of the NAACP. But she won election to

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## Martin, Jordan Gear Up For '88 Governor's Race

By John Fleisher  
Associated Press Writer

RALEIGH (AP) -- Like heavyweight boxers training for a championship fight, Gov. Jim Martin and Lt. Gov. Bob Jordan traded verbal jabs and built up their political muscles in 1987, preparing for next year's gubernatorial showdown.

For much of the year, Jordan watched anxiously as fellow Democrats flirted with the possibility of challenging him for the nomination. Martin, meanwhile, was distracted by a squabble over the state GOP chairmanship.

But attention never drifted far from the impending Martin-Jordan showdown that seemed all but inevitable although neither formally had declared his candidacy as the year wound down.

They appointed campaign directors, held fund-raisers and

took other steps to gear up their organizations.

And they sparred repeatedly, especially during the General Assembly session that observers had called crucial for both politicians as they struggled to establish reputations as strong leaders.

Jordan set the tone in his opening-day speech, appearing to refer to Martin in urging the Senate to cast aside the "status quo" and move the state forward.

In his State of the State address a week later, Martin responded with several "status quo" comments of his own.

Ironically, the two disagreed on relatively few issues and even accused each other of "metoism" and stealing each other's ideas.

Martin made funding the Basic Education Program the centerpiece of his proposed 1987 budget. Jordan accused him of op-

posing the BEP, an eight-year program begun in 1983, until he realized it was popular. Martin

## City Gov't Holiday Schedule

All departments of Charlotte City government will be closed December 24 and 25 for Christmas and on January 1 for New Year's Day.

Due to the holidays, the Charlotte Sanitation Division will operate on an amended schedule. Regular backyard garbage pick-up and curbside trash collection will be made on Thursday, December 24. There will be no collection of any kind on Christmas Day, December 25. Friday's backyard garbage pick-up and curbside trash collection will be made on Saturday, December 26. Recycling pick-up will follow the same schedule.

Both garbage and trash col-

lected he never opposed the pro-

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lections will be made on their regular schedule during the week of December 28 through January 1, with service being provided on New Year's Day for regular Friday customers.

Christmas trees placed on the curb will be collected the week of January 4-8 and the week of January 11-15. Collection will be made from the curb only.

Buses operated by the Charlotte Transit System will be on a Saturday schedule on Christmas Eve, December 24 and a Sunday schedule on Christmas and New Year's day. Buses will operate on their regular schedules on all other days.

## Business Incubator Closer To Reality

By Herb White  
Post Staff Writer

The proposed West Charlotte Merchants Incubator, only months from becoming reality, promises to help minority-owned businesses survive and bring jobs to the black community.

Nasif Majeed, a founding father of the incubator concept, said its goal is simple enough.

"It is to stimulate business for the purpose of job creation in the West Trade-Beatties Ford corridor through the development of a business incubator. Everyone is going to be proud of the efforts of many people to bring a valuable resource to our community," he said.

The project, in the works since 1983, has received good support from the local business and educational community. Majeed said. The West Trade-Beatties Ford Merchants Association has worked with businesses throughout Charlotte to make the incubator a success. Johnson C. Smith University has leased two acres near its campus to house the incubator, which will consist of small businesses and shops. Presently an abandoned foundry sits on the proposed site behind the school.

Majeed didn't give specific numbers, but said there have been "numerous" requests for occupancy space at the incubator, which may begin groundbreaking by late spring. About 70 percent of its occupants will be service-oriented businesses with the other 30 percent in light manufacturing and industrial.

"We've gotten a lot of requests



Gantt



for space in the incubator," he said. "We've been getting a lot of response" from prospective tenants.

Ultimately, the incubator will

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## JCSU Nears \$120,000 Goal For UNCF Drive

By Herb White  
Post Staff Writer

Johnson C. Smith University's United Negro College Fund drive is on target to meeting its goal for 1987, a school official said.

State Alexander, university relations director at JCSU, said Monday the school expects to realize a mark of \$120,000 in local contributions by the time the Lou Rawls Parade of Stars telethon ends Sunday morning.

The nationally-broadcast program will air from Las Vegas and Hollywood and will feature entertainment celebrities.

Rawls, Marilyn McCoo and Ed McMahon will co-host the telethon, to be seen on WBTV channel 3, Saturday from 7 a.m. to 1 a.m. Sunday.

The UNCF telethon helps support 42 traditionally black private schools, including Smith, Concord's Barber-Scotia and Salisbury's Livingstone College. All three schools will take part in the local telethon and fundraising efforts.

Alexander said the Charlotte campaign, spearheaded by city councilwoman Cyndee Patterson and Rev. Leon Riddick, has been shifting into high gear as the deadline nears. Local groups and individuals have been instrumental in the effort, Alexander said, raising money and providing volunteers for small fundraisers in addition to the Parade of Stars.

Saturday's telethon will coincide with several local viewing parties to help raise money for UNCF.

"We're very happy with the way the sub-programs have gone so far," Alexander said. "No pay is involved, but they work very hard to help us pull it off."

The JCSU effort netted \$115,000 last year for UNCF, so it was a natural decision to try for a higher figure in 1987.

This year's campaign started with planning sessions in January and active fundraising started in March.

"We upped our goal slightly from last year figuring that we could make our goal," Alexander said.

Community involvement is the most important factor in the drive because all the money Smith raises in the area will go to the school.

"The big push is to alert the local community," Alexander said. "It's especially important to the black community because so many of our students can't afford to go to college and with this being a private school, it's important to us."

UNCF will match Smith's local total four-fold, so the goal is to meet the target and hopefully exceed it.

"For every dollar the community raises, UNCF gives \$4, so the community is actually multiplying its donation," Alexander said.

The local production of the telethon, which will be broadcast from WBTV's studios, will need volunteers to man telephones to take pledges and perform other tasks, Alexander said. It provides the public an opportunity to meet local celebrities in addition to working toward a worthwhile goal.

"Volunteers are always needed to help us out," Alexander said. "Some folks just enjoy watching the entertainment, but we'll really need people during the telethon's last hour, from 12 to 1 in the morning. We always welcome people who want to help."

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