

Childcare center

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lar knowledge. We have a private school from 3-5 basically."

She said the curriculum is non-denominational. "We don't teach doctrine; we just teach moral values and Christianity to them," Green said.

The construction of the new day care center was an inspiration, Green said. She says she had a vision of what the center should look like and her husband, a lawyer, got a general contractors license and built the structures.

"The Lord gave us a vision. We put it on paper and had it drawn up and my husband built it from the ground up. The only experience he had

was working with his grandfather, a carpenter, when he was a little boy."

The main building has an atrium in the middle of the floor with two fountains, including a waterfall. "The kids look out of their classrooms into a garden area," Green said. There's a cafeteria and chapel and the kids have their own bathroom in each classroom. Each classroom has a door to the playground area. The play area covers nearly an acre of the campus. The infant and toddler building has a diaper changing table in the middle of its floor so teachers can watch the other children while they are changing diapers.

"The children are watched at all times; their (teachers)

backs are never turned away from the children," Green said. "The toddlers are potty training so they have their own restrooms, too, one per classroom, like the older children."

The Greens got grants from the Smart Start program to buy furniture and playground equipment for the center. The state funds are available to help centers in low-income areas provide top quality care.

The Green sons are now ages 17 and 12. The couple has been married 21 years.

At Angels Christian Day Care, Roger Green, who left a private law practice, handles administrative work, and Connie Green directs the staff and works with the children.

Resume must be timely

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"What I recommend is stating your achievements strongly, giving yourself full credit for your accomplishments. Many people find they have a hard time doing that for themselves; that's often why they

choose a professional service," adds Katz.

What should your resume do for you? According to resume writing experts, your resume should market you, your uniqueness and your

strengths. The resume goes out on your behalf to represent you and open the doors to person-to-person discussions. As the old expression states, a good resume should "get your foot in the door." The rest is up to you.

Reparations due for slavery

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"On the local level you and others can begin lobbying city officials and organizations for resolutions in support of reparations for black people," according to the group's membership recruitment literature. Reparation backers explain that the concept emerged during the Civil War when General William T. Sherman issued Special Field Order No. 15. It allocated abandoned rice fields for the use of freed slaves.

Though vetoed by President Andrew Johnson, congressional passage of the Freedmen's bill is cited as another example. Historically, the promise

of this legislation produced a popular praise of that time, "forty acres and a mule," suggesting a basic benefit for former slaves. Politicians of that time were responsible for passage of several homesteading laws.

N'COBRA literature also mentions the National Ex-Slave Mutual Relief, Bounty and Pension Association, which existed from the late 1800s to about 1915, as a precedent.

National Newspaper Publishers Association columnist William Reed provided other examples in a nationally-distributed column written last month.

"There is a precedent for an

apology and compensation in U.S. history," he wrote. "The government has paid compensation to some Indian nations, made formal apology to the indigenous people of Hawaii, and paid \$20,000 to many Japanese people who were wrongfully incarcerated during World War II."

Afrik, a retired public school educator, is an instructor at Northeastern Illinois University, while Scott operates a child development center. She is a certified teacher and accredited Christian educator.

Charlotte chapter co-leaders are Russell Swilley and Radhia Jaaber.

Computers a must to succeed

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dren with them, they will be left out and shut out of the mainstream of the 21st century.

Shelia Funderburk, vice president of employment and training at the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Urban League, said that organization is focusing on computer training as the key to making sure African Americans prosper in the 21st century.

"National and global employers are seeking employees who possess the technical skills necessary to operate in the new environment," said Funderburk.

Thanks to efforts such as Charlotte's Web, computers are becoming more available, including at community centers, churches and other outlets where children, even poor children, can have access.

The Public Library Main Branch uptown has two fully-staffed computer rooms, the Virtual Library for teenagers and adults and one in the children's section. Computers are also available in most branches.

But, the real power of the computer can be found in the home.

Kathy Procope is national membership chair of the Black Data Processors Association. She works for Alltel Communications as a systems engineer at NationsBank.

Her son, Andre, age 11, has access to her home computer, which has a full encyclopedia on CD-ROM and a connection to the Internet.

"He just types in what he wants information about and

it comes back with pictures and even sound," Procope said. "He has heard Martin Luther King's speeches on it." "You can do so many things," she said. "We do our banking, so we sign on and pay all our bills. I know up to the minute how much money is in my account. I do my taxes on it. I don't go to H.R. Block."

But Procope worries about other African American children who are limited to a few minutes of computer time in their classrooms on outdated Apple II and other first generation personal computers.

Fewer still have access to the Internet, that loosely organized computer network tying together massive databases of information and millions of personal computers in homes and offices around the world.

"Parents don't see the need," she said. "But there's not a desk today in America that doesn't have a PC on it. They are going to have to know what to do."

The job options are endless, from computer repair and installation, to programming new applications and games, to sales and distribution, to providing technical support by phone to home computer owners.

"It is so new, it changes every day," Procope said. "You can become an expert on something overnight. All it takes is commitment and a little bit of access."

Children aren't being pushed to understand computers, or made aware of the new industry as a viable career option, Procope said.

"The reason behind it are like math and science in

schools," she said. "It is something we are not encouraged to do. There's a fear. They think it is hard and it's really not for our children."

Frank Williams, a Charlotte photographer, has made the computer an integral part of his business and personal life since his brother gave him an old computer three years ago.

"The Internet is a global storehouse of knowledge for man, woman and child to access through their own homes," said Williams, who began "cruising" the 'net three years ago and now advises a local personal computer club.

Williams is now an advocate for the purchase of home computers and connecting to the Internet.

"My first experience in computers started in June of 1993," Williams said. "My brother, Ron Williams, gave me an old hand-me-down computer, an IBM dinosaur. He then got me online with Prodigy where the two of us would communicate via e-mail. He was in Hartford, Conn. and I in Charlotte."

"We now have relatives online in Connecticut, Virginia, Washington, DC, California, and Jackson, Miss. To e-mail them is like picking up the phone and calling across town."

One of Williams' most exciting contacts on the Internet has been with Dudley Kenney, who works with NASA and helps launch space shuttle flights.

Procope's group, a 20-year-old organization with chapters in 44 cities and more than 1,600 members, has set up training programs for young African Americans.

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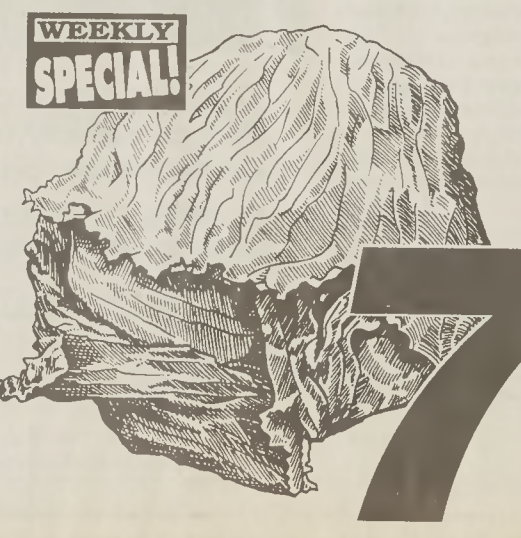
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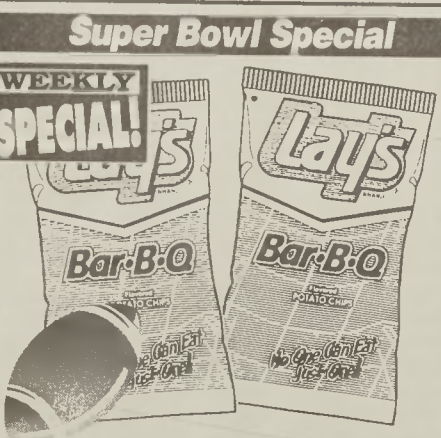


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