

Black Santas a rarity

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young and there wasn't a black Santa back then," said Darrick, 26.

While African American community groups and churches in many urban areas have long provided black Santas for children to visit, suburban malls - where St. Nick is often the major attraction during the holidays - often have not, despite efforts dating back to the civil rights era.

In the 1960s, for example, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference boy-



PHOTO/WADE NASH

Darrick Faulk and his sons would like to see black Santa in more places during Christmas.

cotted Federated Department Stores to get them to hire a black Santa in Cincinnati, Ohio.

So Charlotte falls in line with many other cities, pro-

viding at least on outlet where black kids can find a Santa that looks like them.

Black Santa is at Eastland on Wednesdays from 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Christmas is great times for giving back

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furniture while they put their lives back together. Though Farrell said buying Christmas gifts will be a struggle, she feels blessed.

"Christmas is a happy time

and I just pray my children will be happy," she said.

Want to help?

To donate to New Hampton Presbyterian Church, call (704) 547-0296.

To attend Santa's Favorite

Ho Ho's Party, wear a Santa hat, purchase a new toy for a boy (wrap in green paper) or a girl (wrapped in red paper) and head to Eden's, located at 1111 Central Ave. on Saturday from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m.

Apple, the Wisconsin professor, acknowledged that home schooling benefits a limited number of black children, but

children should come first.

"You do what you have to do that your children get an excellent education," she said. "Don't leave it up to the system."

Apple, the Wisconsin professor, acknowledged that home schooling benefits a limited number of black children, but

said that improving public education for the greatest number of students depends on mass mobilization by concerned parents.

"They're trying as hard as they possibly can to protect their children, and for that they must be applauded," Apple said.

Home schooling option favored

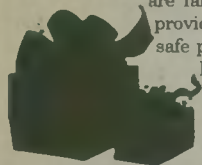
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says she has things in common with white home schooling parents, including being born-again Christians, but there's still a need to associate with other African-American families and to make sure their children can get to know other black children.

"The image they see so much of the time is not a positive image of black Americans, and being a minority in a minority where they do not see many people who look like them—there's just a need to connect," she said.

To help guide African-American families, Joyce Burges and her husband, Eric, started the National Black Home Educators Resource Association in 2000. She said many families were dissatisfied with their public schools, but were unaware that home schooling was legal.

The Baton Rouge-area resident says she and other black home schoolers have been likened to Revolutionary traitor Benedict Arnold by people who think they've turned their backs on the long struggle to gain equal access to public education. But, she said, when schools aren't teaching children to read, or are failing to provide a safe place to learn,



The Charlotte Post

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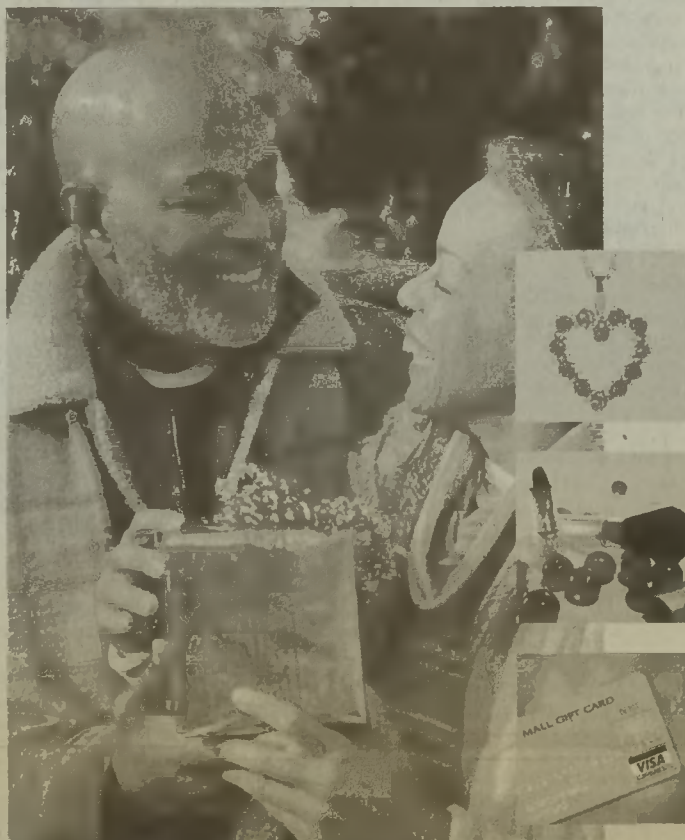
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