

**For The Emotionally Disturbed**

**Alexander Children Center To Add Permanent Facilities**

By Deborah Gates  
Post Staff Writer  
Alexander Children's Center, a community service organization committed to as many individuals, groups, and agencies as possible, announced at a recent luncheon meeting of plans to add a permanent school facility at the Center for emotionally disturbed children.

"The project," described by Executive Director Glenn B. Robinson, "is to be long planned for education building designed to meet special needs in working with emotionally disturbed children and their families." He said the facility will also be used for the Center's extended services.  
Telling the need for the

Learning Center, Program Director Carol Jane Bryant said that cottage space now being utilized for make-shift classrooms could be reverted to house additional children who are waiting for admission. She called present temporary arrangements for classrooms "inadequate in space and design for teaching emotionally disturbed children."

According to Mrs. Bryant, most of the children at the Center are not able to cope with public school classrooms, and many have been either suspended or excluded or face that prospect. "These children typically are triggered into explosive activity by close contact with other children," Mrs. Bryant said.  
According to Robinson, the

unique and educational problems require the new building be designed to withstand heavy use and provide for child and worker safety, noise buffering and continuous, close observation in each area. "We need more room," Robinson added, "to allow us to provide a wide range of activities to occur at the same time." He said there is a great variance in learning levels at

the center.  
Robinson said there is great enthusiasm among the children, and Mrs. Bryant asked each child to be a "junior architect" and give ideas for their new school. "Some of the responses showed a great deal of insight," Robinson said, "for several children asked for carpeted areas where groups could sit on the floor."  
According to Robinson one

boy was concerned that the teachers have a quiet place to relax, and another said, that kids sometimes need an office too. As for the latter suggestion, Robinson noted that a number of individual study booths are in the plans.  
Alexander Children's Center receives income from tuition, outright gifts, endowment, and grants from other agencies.



Elizabeth P. Graham  
...To Play "Lui"

**Black Woman To Play Lead Role**

**In Opera Here**

By Melvetta Wright  
Post Staff Writer  
Elizabeth Peeler Graham, a native of Shelby, N.C. and a present resident of Cherryville, N.C., will appear in the January 28 - 30 Charlotte Opera Association's presentation of "Turandot," an oriental opera written by Puccini.  
Ms. Graham, who received her Bachelor of Arts degree from the North Carolina School of Arts in Winston-Salem, is credited with having won the NATS Award, the Metropolitan Region Auditions in North Carolina, Georgia, and Florida finals, the Opera of Palm Beaches Competition, and the Young Artists Award. She made her professional debut as Clara in the Houston Grand Opera's new production of Porgy and Bess, which toured Philadelphia, Virginia, and Canada before opening on Broadway last September.

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After receiving her B.A. degree, Ms. Graham studied with Ms. Frances Shaffer for three years, then went to Florida State University where she secured her Master's Degree. Ms. Graham is now a Ph.D. candidate at Florida State.

She will play the part of Lui in the opera based on a Chinese fairy tale about a princess (Turandot) and the suitors who try to win her hand. In order to do this they must answer three enigmas: failure to do this means death.

Lui is a slave girl who travels with an exiled King mainly because of her love for his son, Calaf. Calaf decides to attempt to answer Turandot's enigmas instead of returning Lui's affections and she kills herself in order to save him.

Other leads in the opera will be played by Harry Theyard, of the Metropolitan Opera (lead tenor - Calaf) and Mata Marcotoules, of the Greek National Opera (soprano lead - Turandot). David Hicks is the stage director and Charles Rosenkrans is the music director.

Information about tickets for the opera can be obtained from the Charlotte Opera Association, Spirit Square, 332-7177.

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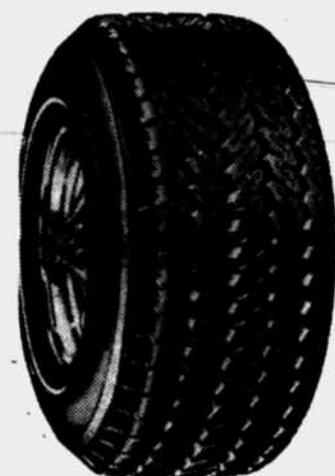
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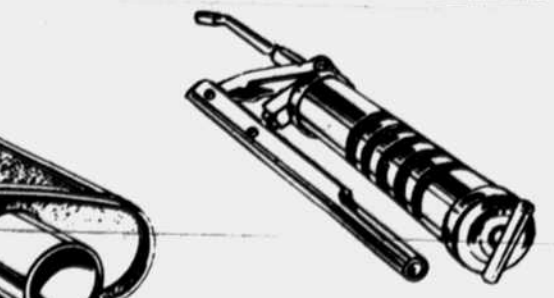
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