



MOTHER OF THE YEAR

Mrs. Allie Wilkins, center, received a gift from Father Joe Coulter on behalf of the congregation at St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church during a program in her honor Mother's Day. Latrelle Peeler was guest speaker for the occasion. A covered-dish luncheon followed the morning program in the church's Fellowship Hall. (Photo by Peeler)

For Michelle

Nothing Is The Same Anymore!

By Lori Grier
Post Staff Writer
"I don't get to jog or go to the park anymore. I get depressed a lot when I take Michelle to the hospital because of the stares and questions of people," Karen Porter said.

Nothing is the same for this 23-year-old mother since a malignant eye tumor called Retinoblastoma was discovered in the left eye of her 22-month-old daughter Michelle.

Dr. Deborah Scott discovered the tumor when Michelle was only seven months old. Dr. Charles Marshall removed the left eye which was completely destroyed by the tumor and gave her an artificial eye. Later, he gave her radiation treatments to her eye socket after the operation, and now she must receive chemotherapy treatments indefinitely. Michelle must also take Dimetapp every morning and night to prevent colds and Phenobarbital every night before bed to help ease her pain.

Nothing will ever be the same for Karen, because she watches the affect that chemotherapy has upon her daughter which causes her to only want to eat breakfast. She faces the sad reality that her only child might live no more than three years.

"I can't take Michelle to the nursery, grocery store, or let her play with children for fear that she might catch a germ. She can't have anymore baby shots. There's a possibility that Michelle won't be able to go to school and will need a tutor at home," Karen said.

What is Retinoblastoma? According to her eye doctor, it is an eye tumor which effects childhood only. It is caused by an over growth of cells in the eye. Usually the child loses the eye, but it can also spread to the brain and the liver. If diagnosed early and treated properly, the child could recover. Approximately 1, to 14,000-1 to 34,000 children will get retinoblastoma.

Michelle continues to run around the house, watch television, and play with the Pac Man game not

knowing of the obstacles her mother has faced since this tumor was discovered. Karen was denied financial help from Social Security, Cancer Society, Food Stamp and United Way organizations because of her income at the Lance Packing Company and her insurance agency.

The only help she has received has been from Michelle's grandparents and Mrs. Jeanette Robinson, founder of the 1978 Charlotte Doll Show with the help of the Echoes of Gamma Phi Delta Sorority. They are planning to establish a Michelle Porter Foundation to help with the major medical bills. Anyone wishing to help with this most needed cause, please contact Mrs. Robinson at 596-4756. Make checks payable to: Michelle Porter Foundation and mail to 700 Canterbury Drive, Charlotte, 28213 in care of Jeanette Robinson.

"The sorority is a wonderful organization. I had given up on help. I didn't know there was anyone left like Mrs. Robinson who cared," Karen said.

Karen advises all

Winn-Dixie Reports

Sales Increase

Jacksonville, Fla. - Winn-Dixie Stores, Inc. reported sales of \$545,142,000 during the four weeks ended May 4, 1983, compared with \$531,837,000 for the similar period last year, an increase of 2.5 percent.

For the 44 weeks ended May 4, 1983, the total was \$5,942,483,000 compared with \$5,595,647,000 a year ago, an increase of 6.2 percent.

The company opened 25 new stores and closed 27 since June 30, 1982, having 1,220 stores in operation on May 4, 1983, compared with 1,222 last year.

mothers who have children with illnesses. "You have to hold on and do the best you can. Michelle is all I have, so I wonder why I have to go through this." According to Michelle's eye doctor, she is alive today because of her mother and pediatrician's prompt action. "Anytime the parent or pediatrician notices that something is wrong with the child's eye, you must refer him to an eye doctor no matter what the age is," he said.



Michelle Porter
.....Needs help



Mrs. Jeanette Robinson
.....Established foundation

Twenty-Nine Charlotteans Graduate From J.C. Smith

Thirty Charlotte residents graduated from Johnson C. Smith University on May 15.

Receiving their bachelor's or arts degrees were: Lisa Dorene Blair, 1612 I-85 N.; Darryl Antonio Broome, 5509 Torrence St.; Lillian Davis Butts, 1215 Whitepines Rd.; Wanda Madison Chancellor, 1703 Eastcrest Dr.; Curtis Crawford, 310 N. Davidson St.; Juanza Sabrina Dewalt, cum laude, 3488 Sargeant Dr.; Edward Scott Ellis, cum laude, 1813 Trentwood Pl.; George Benjamin Hairson III, cum laude, 2032 Oaklawn Ave.; Gisele Victoria Hamilton, 1213 Fairmont St.; Quita Renee Fisher Harper, summer cum laude, 1701 West Blvd.; Debbie Porter Hill, 3228 Avalon Ave.; Rodney Kenneth Hood, 1327 Orvis St.; Ronnie Eugene Hood, 322 N. Davidson St.

Also graduating were: Joan Thompson Johnson, cum laude, 2019 Canterburywood; Robert L. Ester Lane Jr., 4024 Corry Dr.; Terry Sherrod McPherson, 2629 Wydesdale Terr.; Sandra Juanita Melton, cum laude, 1022 Afternoon Ct.; Issac Lee Murray, 2212 Holly St.; Marilyn Veronica Redfern, 609 Remount Rd.; Kay Frances Timmons, 1020 Tara Ln.; Michael Anthony Williams, 1701 West Blvd.; Pamela Michelle Young, cum laude, 3774 Seaman Dr.

Graduates receiving their bachelor's of science degrees were: Glemette Brown, 901 Bannister Pl.; Perneilyn Covington, 1601 Norris Ave.; Ernie Lee Nesmith, cum laude, 1137 Archdale Dr.; Francis Larry Pendergrass, 526 Dedmon Dr.; Jennifer Lee Shipp, 4220 Castleton Rd.; Chanda Brenette Truesdell, 3451 Barringer Dr.; Sheila Norvelle Wall, cum laude, 9009 Windsong Dr.; James Laverne White, 5833 Barrington Dr.

Ms. Dewalt, an honors student has been cited for academic achievement, is in the honors program, member of the National Council of Negro Women and is a member of Pi Delta Tau Education Honor Society; Mr. Ellis is on the dean's list. Ms. Quita Renee Fisher Harper is a member of Alpha Kappa Mu Honor Society; Beta Kappa Chi Scientific Society; Alpha Chi National College Honor Scholarship Society; received the Foreign Language Award; the Psychology Department Recognition award; dean's list; honors program; Finalist for the Luard Scholarship; Trustee Scholarship; Highest Academic Average of Class (3 years); Women with the highest average (3 years); National Dean's List; National Register of Outstanding College Graduates, Presidential Scholar

and Who's Who Among Students in American Colleges and Universities. Mr. Rodney Hood is on the dean's list. Ms. Thompson is a member of Sigma Tau Delta National English Honor Society. Mr. Murray is on the dean's list. Ms. Timmons is on the dean's list. Ms. Young is Miss Johnson C. Smith University 1982-83, a member of Pi Gamma Mu International Honor Society in Social Science, student Ombudsman for Urban Studies Dept.; Duke Scholar, National Dean's List, United Negro College Fund Fundraising Chairperson and the dean's list.

Mr. Nesmith is a member of Tau Beta Chi Business Administration Honor Society. Ms. Wall is an honor student, is on the dean's list and is a member of Beta Kappa Chi Scientific Society, Alpha Chi National College Honor Scholarship Society.

Fish Fry

The Client Council of Southern Piedmont will sponsor a pre-Memorial Day fish fry on Saturday, May 28, from 11 a.m. until

The fish fry will be held at 1534 West Blvd. (Westover Shopping Center) corner of Remount Rd.

This event is to benefit our neighborhood center in the black community. Tickets are on sale at 1534 West Blvd.

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