

# The World Can Be A Brighter Place For Michelle

By Loretta Manago  
Post Managing Editor

Three years ago, the future looked dim for Michelle Porter. Michelle suffers from retinoblastoma, a malignant eye tumor. Her mother, Karen didn't have much hope either. Doctors couldn't assure them of the days that Michelle had to live. Michelle had to face chemotherapy treatments for an indefinite period of time. Every day there was medication to take and even the chance for Michelle to attend public schools with other kids seemed remote.

But today a lot has changed. Today, a ray of sunshine has found its way into the life of Michelle and her mother. Michelle, now five, is an active, precocious young girl. She is no longer on chemotherapy. Her medication has been reduced to cough medicine. Since the chemotherapy treatments there has been no further signs of cancer. But most important, Michelle is able to attend school and interact with other youngsters her age.

"Michelle is in kindergarten," replied Ms. Porter who works for Lance and Michelle interrupted saying "And I read on a second grade level."

But with all of the good news, Michelle still needs help. During the time she received chemotherapy treatments, the process stopped the bone growth in her face. Ms. Porter explained that the chemotherapy treatments acted as a necessary evil, halting the spread of cancer, yet killing necessary bone cells.

"Michelle needs reconstructive surgery now," replied Ms. Porter. The present insurance company I have will not assume the cost because Michelle was already sick when we changed policies." Ms. Porter explained that she switched insurance companies in order to get better coverage for visits to the doctor's office.

According to Ms. Porter it will take \$3,000 to \$4,000 for Michelle to undergo plastic surgery. "She needs another artificial eye and we hope that during this surgery, the doctors will be able to get her eye (the artificial one) to close and blink." Another hope of Ms. Porter's is that Michelle, through this surgery will be able to grow



Karen Porter and daughter, Michelle

It is estimated that the surgery needed would take \$3,000 to \$4,000

eyelashes.

Those hopes, eyes that close, eyes that blink and eyelashes may seem unimportant, but to someone like Michelle who has never known such simple pleasures, they mean a lot.

Word has begun to leak out that Michelle needs help. And there has been some response to that plea. On Friday, January 23, John Kee and The New Life Community Choir will

be sponsoring a benefit concert on Michelle's behalf. The concert will take place at Jerusalem House of God, 1704 E. Trade St. On Sunday, February 8, Michelle's aunt, Vickie Johnson will sponsor a disco at King's & Queen's. Donations are \$3.

Every six months, Michelle enters the hospital to see if the cancer has spread. With Retinoblastoma, there

is always that chance. This disease affects childhood only. Caused by an overgrowth of cells in the eye, the disease causes the loss of the child's eye and it can also spread to the brain and liver.

If you would like to help Michelle donations can be sent to Michelle Porter Foundation, 700 Canterwood Drive, Charlotte, 28213, in care of Jeannette Robinson who is the founder of the Charlotte Doll Show. To reach her by phone call, 596-4756.

## A&T Receives Major Grant

Raleigh - Governor Martin has announced that a major, innovative grant has been awarded to North Carolina A&T State University in Greensboro by the North Carolina Department of Transportation. The grant, the first of its kind in the state, totals approximately \$18,000 and will fund the development of a new training program for minority businesses.

"I am pleased to announce this grant, which we hope will be a major step towards qualifying more companies owned by minorities and women for state highway contracts," Governor Martin said.

The grant will help develop an Entrepreneur Development Institute (EDI) which will operate in conjunction with the Governor's Initiatives on Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) program. The HBCU program was established to attract state and private contributions for historically black institutes of higher learning to aid them in their efforts to be self-sufficient.

Specifically, the Institute will assist minority businesses in the preparation of bids for construction projects. Federal law requires that a certain portion of highway construction work must be done by disadvantaged business enterprises.

Under the EDI grant, a week-long seminar will be held on the A&T State campus for eligible contractors. The dates for that seminar are February 9-13. The seminars will be taught by A&T professors and Department of Transportation personnel. If there is sufficient interest in the program, another seminar is planned for March 2-6, also at A&T.

## New Programs Helps Prevent Forest Fires

Raleigh - The large fires in North Carolina during the past two years have been the worst fires in the state since 1963. But landowners can help prevent forest fires through a new program of the N.C. Division of Forest Resources.

The Landowner Hazard Reduction

Prescribed Burning Program is designed to eliminate the build-up of dead leaves, grasses and twigs on the forest floor that burn very easily during periods of extreme dryness and high winds. Several of the larger fires of 1986 could have been more easily controlled with fewer

acres lost if these burnable fuels were eliminated.

The objective of the program is to reduce the threat, or hazard, of the burnable fuels through a planned, or prescribed, controlled burning process done by the Division of Forest Resources.

# IF YOU'RE PAYING MORE THAN \$2.50 PER MONTH FOR A CHECKING ACCOUNT YOU'RE PAYING TOO MUCH!

Before you sign up for a no-minimum checking account offered at any bank, read the fine print. The cost of each additional check that you write may more than offset the advantage of not having to keep a minimum in your account.

FOR EXAMPLE: Mr. Smith keeps an average monthly balance of \$475 and writes 20 or more checks every month. Where will his checking account cost him the least amount of money?

LOOK AT THE FACTS:

	REGULAR CHECKING*				
	NC Federal	First Union	Wachovia	NCNB	Your Bank
Minimum To Open	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	
Minimum To Avoid Charges	0-	0-	\$500 or \$1,250 Average	\$600 or \$1,000 Average	
Monthly Charges	2.50	3.00	3.00	3.00	
Other Charges	0-	.50 per check after first 10	.25 per check	.25 per check	
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$2.50</b>	\$8.00	\$8.00	\$8.00	\$

\*Based on January 8, 1987 survey.

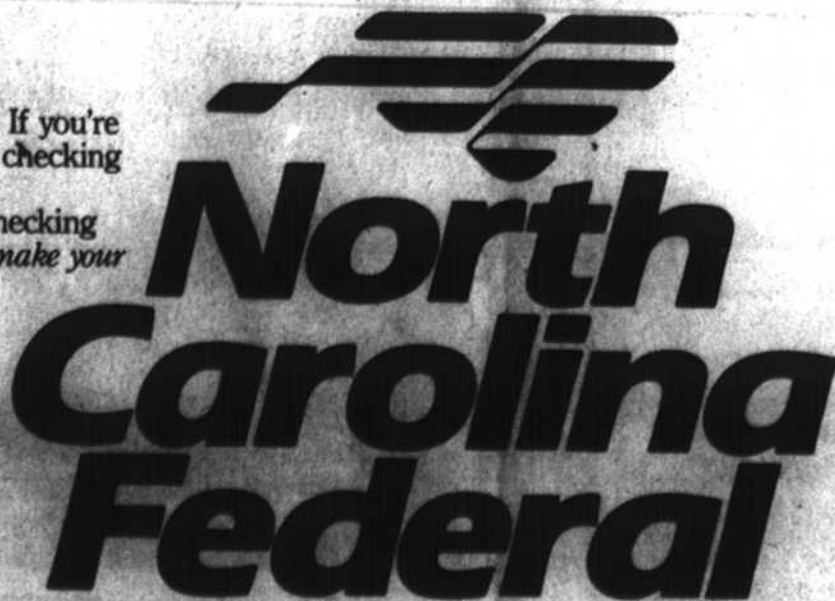
### HOW DOES YOUR CHECKING ACCOUNT COMPARE?

The facts above speak for themselves. If you're paying more than \$2.50 per month for a checking account, you're paying too much.

What's more, when you open a new checking account at North Carolina Federal, we'll make your first \$5.00 deposit for you.

- Charlotte:
  - 3801 E. Independence Blvd., 537-7825
  - 5416 N. Tryon St., 598-7990
  - 3921 Tuckasee Rd., 394-1129
  - 6428 Fairview Rd., 364-4920
  - 230 S. Tryon St., 376-6255
  - 1437 East Morehead St., 338-9262
  - 4444 Park Rd., 525-7555
  - 7824 Pineville-Matthews Rd., 542-1555

\*Locations - ATM 24 Hour Banking



# GIANT BOOK WAREHOUSE

Charlotte's Largest Book Store  
8000 Sq. Ft. filled with  
100 thousand Books. Over 5000  
Titles to Choose-Representing  
America's Greatest Publishers.  
Books For The Entire Family:  
Children's, Cookbooks, Novels,  
Textbooks, Beauty, How-To, Home  
and Auto Repair, Gardening  
Computer Manuals, Bibles,  
Religious Books, Records  
and Tapes.  
**REPRESENTING MOST MAJOR PUBLISHERS. ALL BOOKS 50% TO 90% OFF REG. RETAIL**

## "A LASTING IMPRESSION"

A Collection Of Photographs Of  
**MARTIN LUTHER KING JR**  
Ref. John Tweedle  
Compiled & Edited By:  
Hermene D. Hartsom  
Foreword By: Rev. Jesse L. Jackson  
Hardback 12 1/2 - 9 1/2 Reg. \$19.95  
**SALE \$3.00**

## HOME RELIGIOUS LIBRARY

**FAMILY BIBLE EDITION**  
1500 Pages, 97 Full-Color Pictures,  
Center Column Reference, Topical Index  
Concordance, Bible Dictionary, Maps, Red Letter Giant  
Print, Gilded Edges, Presentation Page, Family  
Record on Parchment, Table of Daily Bible Reading.  
Reg. \$69.95 **SALE \$15.00**

## THE "BIBLE" COLORING BOOK

Old & New Testament  
Start Your Child On A Voyage Of  
Discovery Into The World Of Knowledge  
Through These Fun-To-Color Bible Pages  
Children Develop Many Important Skills  
Through The Art Of Coloring, and these  
Skills- Eye-Hand Coordination, Color Concepts, and  
Picture Comprehension-Form The Foundation For  
Early Learning Success.  
Reg. \$5.95 **SALE \$1.00**

THE GIANT BOOK WAREHOUSE Just Purchased Over 1 Million Dollars Worth of Religious Products. Hundreds of Religious Items—Books, Records, Cassettes, Bibles, Bibles on Cassettes, Plaques, Pictures, Giftware—everything is 50% to 90% off—You Won't Believe the Selection.

## FAVORITE RECIPES PRESS COOK BOOKS

- Quick & Easy Cookbook
  - Holiday Cookbook
  - Meats Cookbook
  - Cakes Cookbook
  - Casseroles Cookbook
  - Fun In The Kitchen (a children's cookbook)
  - Appetizers & Party Snacks
- Easy to use, lay flat, kitchen tested recipes—handy size for todays busy homemaker 6x9-128 pages or more each

Softback  
Reg. Retail 5.95  
**Sale \$1.00 each  
Any 4 for \$5.00**

## 7 Important Health Books

**Salem Kirbon**  
"The Medical Approach Versus The Nutritional Approach"  
• Heart Disease • High Blood Pressure  
• Arthritis • Bowel Problems  
• Cancer • Prostate Problems  
• Impotence/Frigidity  
Soft Cover 5 1/2 x 8 - 200 pages each.  
Reg. \$5.00 **SALE \$2.00**

**COUPON**  
Stop by for a free book, with any purchase.  
**BREAKDANCE!**  
Spinning and gliding, popping and locking...It's the ultimate, and it's all here!  
Dozens of hot Breakdance moves, with hundreds of action photos that show you how to really rock-one step at a time. **REG. RETAIL \$4.95**  
Now Free With Any Purchase—Must have Coupon

5215 SOUTH BOULEVARD AT TRYON  
BEHIND CRABHOUSE RESTAURANT SE NECA SHOPPING  
DAILY 10-9  
SUNDAY 1-6  
PHONE 527-8653