

JCSU opens Saturday Academy

By Herbert L. White
THE CHARLOTTE POST

Johnson C. Smith University has been selected to give middle school students a taste of college life throughout the school year.

JCSU will open one of three Saturday Academies, a state-funded program for at-risk students. The other programs are at N.C. Central University in Durham and East Carolina University in Greenville.

Saturday Academy is a state program that intends to provide opportunities and inspiration to middle school students in 27 counties involved in the Support Our Students initiative. The academies will operate each Saturday throughout the school year, providing students within a 75-mile radius of each school a chance to experience life and learning in a college environment.

"Saturday Academies will help inspire our SOS students to work hard and set high goals for themselves," said Gov. Jim Hunt in announcing the program. "By putting together with university teachers and students, these academies will teach SOS kids what it takes to get to college and inspire them to do their best in school."

SOS, proposed by Hunt and approved by the General Assembly in 1994, operates at 115 sites in 52 counties. The program provides 6,000 students with after-school services,

including mentoring and tutoring from adult volunteers, clubs and community service activities. The Smith curriculum offers academic enhancement, physical fitness, personal growth, and cultural enrichment. Students from Catawba, Davidson, Gaston, Iredell, Lincoln, Montgomery, Richmond, Rowan, Union and Mecklenburg counties are eligible.



Hunt

The academies are an expansion of SOS designed to improve students' academic performance by providing enrichment, social opportunities and mentoring. The program is funded by a \$125,000 Governor's Innovative Program grant awarded to the N.C. Commission on National and Community Service by the Corporation for National Service. Each site will receive \$34,000 to administer its local program, but will depend heavily on volunteer support from the university and the community to help the academy succeed.

For more information on Saturday Academy at Johnson C. Smith, call P. Moses Thomas at 378-1007.

Neighbors oppose

Continued from page 1A

"We are going before commissioners to present our concerns," Atwater said. "There is a public hearing on whether to have a moratorium."

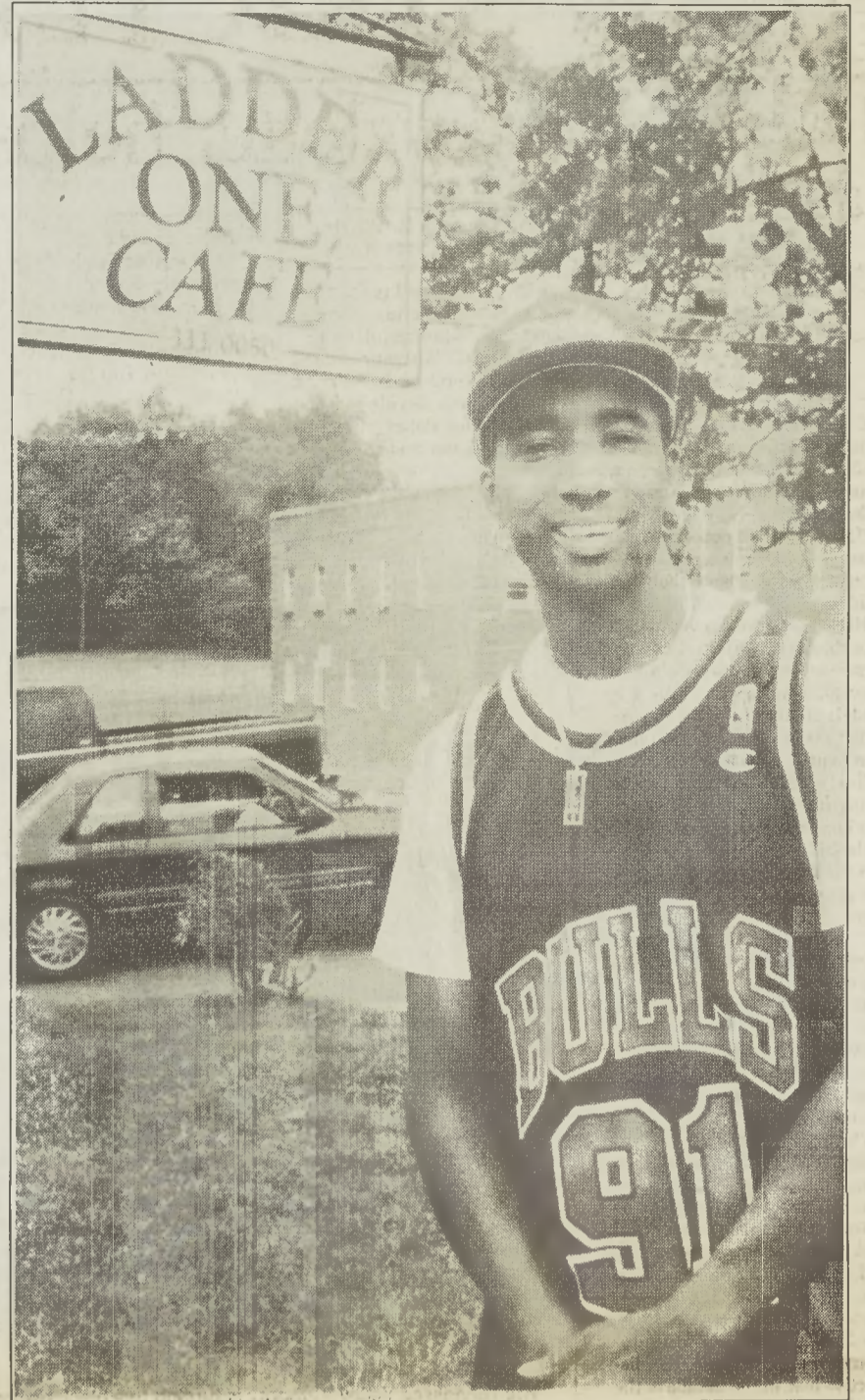
Commissioners are considering a change in zoning rules giving neighborhoods more notification about projects planned near them, even when current zoning permits such projects.

The same concerns were expressed by north Mecklenburg residents living near a proposed rock quarry on Mountain Island Lake. The two neighborhood groups have met to discuss mutual concerns.

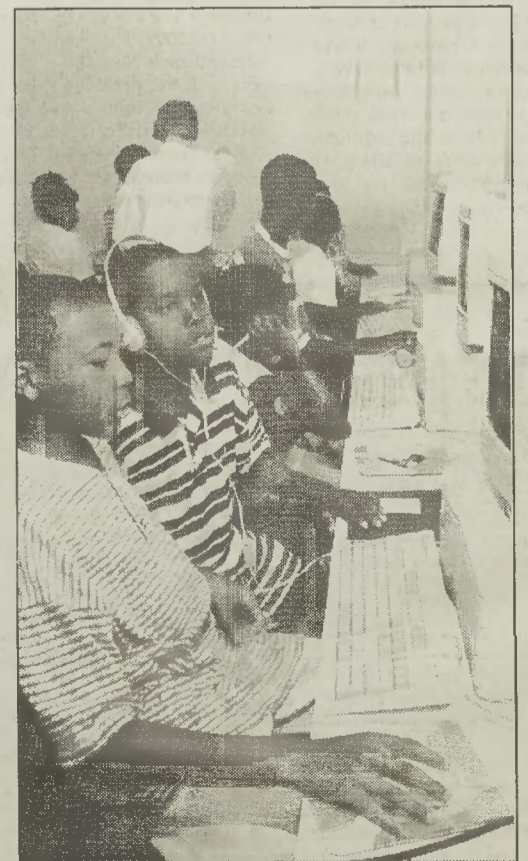
County commissioners are considering whether to call a moratorium on similar new projects and are seeking a way to buy the rock quarry site to prevent its construction.

When the Hoskins Road area was re-zoned for industrial use, the North Pointe Business Park was developed there. Residents say they did not expect anything like a transfer station, despite the I-1 and I-2 industrial zoning.

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