

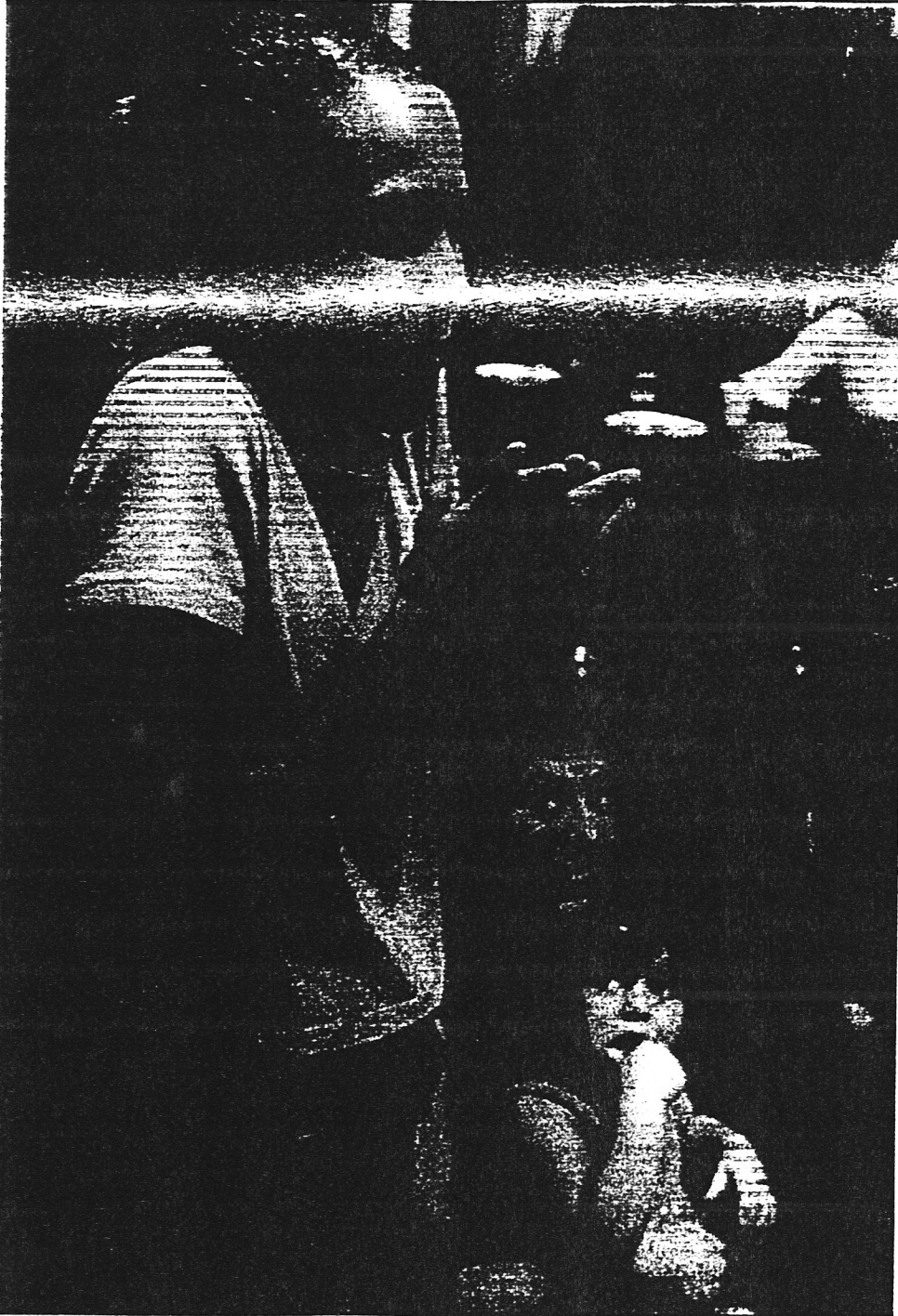
Sanders landed his current job when Hernando's first choice for superintendent in 1995 declined the board's salary offer. But he told Lee

same time dates not scheduled until 2003. Yet Sanders found the Lee County job too enticing to pass up. The salary offer — between \$135,000 and

for employee health insurance. Malcolm has threatened to oppose the re- Please see SANDERS Page 11

hernando and upset the chairman of the School Board.

## How does it taste? Mm mm good



Times photo — DOUGLAS R. CLIFFORD

Ashlev Henry, 11, acts out how she would feel eating a cookie during the Pasco-Hernando Deaf Service Center's drama class for summer day campers at Mariner United Methodist Church in Spring Hill on Tuesday. Michelle Sheiffo, 31, and Lauren Wagner, 2, watch. The class taught hard of hearing kids how to express themselves by means other than verbal communication. Forty-two children attended.

# Wal-Mart switches its tactics for project

■ The new, cooperative approach works: As the company requested, commissioners agree to delay a "big-box" ordinance.

By JEFFREY S. SOLOCHEK  
Times Staff Writer

BROOKSVILLE — Still angling to open a new supercenter in Spring Hill, retail giant Wal-Mart rolled out a new strategy Tuesday to deal with Hernando County commissioners.

Its representatives offered to cooperate with the commissioners in crafting proposed design standards for large-scale retail development. The team, about a dozen strong, also pledged not to apply for a building permit to skirt any new rules while they remain in draft form.

"Our marching orders have always been, 'Let's work with folks. Let's try to find out what folks' problems are,'" lobbyist Todd Pressman told commissioners. "We're all on the same page of the book. We all want a darn good-looking store."

The tactic was a marked departure from the more menacing posture taken by its former representative to the commission. Brooksville lawyer Joe Mason, who had accused commissioners of targeted zoning and had threatened lawsuits.

The new style worked.

Commissioners agreed with Wal-Mart's request to hold off any approval of the "big-box" ordinance — so called because many large stores look like big concrete boxes — until further review and refinement. They continued the hearing until 10 a.m. July 31.

Clearly favoring the adoption of some form of the ordinance, which would govern such items as parking lot schematics and facade design for stores countywide larger than 25,000 square feet, commissioners warned that anyone who wanted to see changes to the draft needed to offer more than a general "we don't like it."

Specific alternative language must be provided for staff and commissioners to consider, they said.

"My expectations are that when people come to the table, everyone is willing to compromise," Commissioner Nancy Robinson said. If commissioners



Commissioner Nancy Robinson says she expects a spirit of compromise while working on ordinances.