Commentary, Opinion

Natalie Robertson | Bernard Peeples | Trotter Collier | Barry Pierce | Shelly Austin-White | Daryl Allen | Anthony Kizzie | Clinton Strane

Few write letters to their congressmen

RICHMOND

Have you ever written to your congressman?

The AFRO asked eight people at random in Richmond this question. Here are respondents' answers:

Natalie S. Robertson, cashier: "No, I've never written my congressman. I'm a registered voter, but I have never voted in any election yet, because I only registered two months ago."

Bernard Peeples, computer operator: "No, I've never done it. I've never sat down and taken the time to do it. I have thought about various issues that I should have addressed but never took the time to do it."

Trotter Collier, finanial analyst: No. On my part, it's apathy. I think it's the same problem that people have with not voting. It's like...is it worth it to write him, or not."

Barry Pierce, college student: "No, and I'm not going to because he won't read it. His advisor will probably go through it and throw it in the trash."

Shelly Austin-White, clerk: "No. I guess the only answer I can give is that I haven't had a reason to. I don't follow politics that much."

Daryl Allen, word processor: "No. I have never had a reason to, except once when I was in the military. But I got that straight so I didn't have to write."

Anthony Kizzie, tax accountant: "Personally, I don't think it will do any good. You hear on the news how they are tied up with this and that. I doubt if they would read it. It's just the fact that one person trying to change the world doesn't make any difference."

Clinton Strane, senior social worker supervisor: I wrote a letter to my congressman about Sheffield's confirmation to the federal judgeship. I feel it was necessary to allow the congressman to know that there was a constituency of black people for his appointment."

Female-owned minority firm awarded Peace Corps contract

WASHINGTON

Capitol Hill Homemaker and Health Aid Services, Inc., a local female-owned minority firm, recently received a Peace Corps contract to provide Stateside Training to six Peace Corps Volunteers going to Niger to work in health nutrition programs.

Niger is a predominantly Muslim country in Africa that lies on the southern fringe of the Sahara Desert.

Dr. W. Jean Porter, a well-known authority on international nutrition and a former Peace Corps Country Director in Tonga, heads the project. She is supported by team of specialists including Dr. Kunle Kassim, an evironmental health and sanitation specialist; Dr. Patricia Fisher, a practing psychologist who is a returned Peace Corps Volunteer and a cross-cultural coordinator specialist; Missale Kumelachew, a nutritionist; and eight other qualified professionals.

The training program involves a combination of lectures and hands on experience, 140 hours of training in nutrition, health and hygiene, and cross-cultural orientation relevant to Niger.

Additionally, volunteers receive lodging facilities, text books, equipment, and other services necessary for the implementation of the training program.

The Peace Corps Volunteer trainees participating in the program reside in Florida, California, Illinois, Connecticut, North Carolina and Washington, D.C. Ann Levin of Washington, D.C. was most recently employed as a counselor and Treasurer for the D.C. Rape Crisis Center.

She cites her interest in working in grass-roots development in an African country and her desire to help alleviate some of the poverty conditions as reasons for joining Peace Corps.

The training has been very helpful in preparing me for Niger states Levin. 'I will be able to use the information I have learned in my work as a nutrition educator as well as in any secondary projects in which I may become involved.'

CHHAS, a Washington, D.C. corporation, provides home health aide and supportive services to residents of the Washington metropolitan area.

A large portion of CHHAS' operations is devoted to the development and implementation of training programs.

CHHAS regularly conducts training programs for Homemaker - Home aides and home manager - housekeepers. The training programs conducted by CHHAS have helped to create an economic base as well as eliminate some of the joblessness among our deprived citizens.

CHHAS has trained persons from Ethiopia, Nigeria, and other African countries, Brazil, Puerto Rico and Jamaica to be homemaker-home health aides. 'I view this contract award as the beginning of CHHAS' efforts to broaden its commitment to provide supportive services and training an international level', remarked Gertie Loretta Hurley, President and founder of CHHAS.

CHHAS developed its international department in the fall of 1981. Since that time CHHAS has presented two seminars in Homemaker-Home Health Care for Filipino women leaders at a Peace Corps- sponsored conference and also has provided internships and work experiences for students from other Third World countries.

CAMARO

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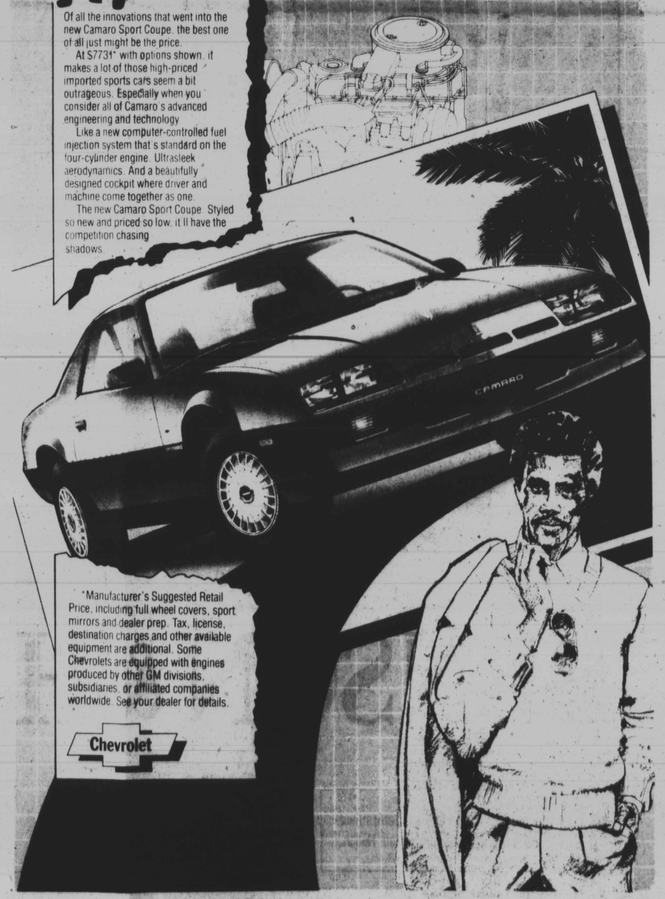

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Chevrolet

NSU graduate

Flight attendant was actress

By Anne Saker
United Press International

NORFOLK — An "energetic and outgoing" flight attendant killed in the Pam American jet crash near New Orleans was drawn to the limelight and had appeared on network television, a longtime friend said.

"She was very energetic and outgoing, she had a beautiful personality," said Norman Carter, who knew Vivian L. Ford in high school at Jarratt, VA, and in college at Norfolk State University.

Ms. Ford, 35, wanted to be an actress because "she loved the limelight of things," Carter said Monday.

Carter, an assistant personnel director at Norfolk State, said Ms. Ford, returned to Virginia over the July 4th weekend for a family reunion.

Ms. Ford, who appeared in the television series "Charlie's Angels" and "Vegas," had been with the airline since 1972, a year after her graduation from NSU, Carter said.

After graduation from NSU with a degree in Business Education, Ms. Ford was a cheerleader for the Virginia Squires professional basketball team of the defunct American Basketball Association.

That job convinced Ms. Ford that she wanted to be an actress, Carter said.

Ms. Ford's sister, Pauline Sharper, said the woman went to Hollywood five years ago to pursue her career.

"She was just 35 years old, and things were just beginning to pick up for her," said Mrs. Sharper, of Glen Allen, VA. "She never had been interested in acting until becoming a cheerleader.

"I guess it was the bright lights at the Squires' games that caused her to want to act," he said.

Ms. Ford also had done some modeling in the Tidewater area during her college years, including a stint as "Miss Cougar" for a local car dealership," Carter said. She joined the airline because she loved to fly, Mrs. Sharper said.

"She loved traveling, and she saw the airline job as a means of doing that," Mrs. Sharper said.

"But the main thing, because of the hours she worked and the time off, it gave her a chance to pursue her acting."

Among Ms. Ford's survivors are a teenage daughter.

Blacks in Criminal Justice sponsors drive

The Maryland Chapter of the National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice recently sponsored a membership drive at the Kappa House on Liberty Heights.

Rep. Parren J. Mitchell was the speaker and Angie Whalen was the recipient of the door prize award. The Blacks in Criminal Justice is designed to examine and upon the needs of blacks and other minorities, their concerns, and contributions as related to the administration of equal justice in the United States.

NABCJ will serve the needs of blacks and other minorities from all levels and areas including non-professional, para-professionals and professionals who will participate on an equitable basis throughout the organization.

Any interested person who would like to join, should attend the next meeting on Sunday, Aug. 1, 3 p.m at the Kappa House or write the Maryland Chapter of Blacks in Crminal Justice, P. O. Box 342 Jessup, Md. 20794.

THE LIVING CHURCH

'Zoe' Dinner Concert attracts more than 1,000

RUFUS G. LANGSTON (L) director of the King David Singers and chairperson for the 'Zoe' Dinner concert held at Martin's West Sunday, July 11 is pictured with (L to R): Vashti McKenzie, who was emcee for the occasion; Lawrence Stokes, leader of the singing group 'Followers of Christ' (of Tulsa, Okla.) and David Waters, speaker of the evening, of Mebron Faith Fellowship, Baltimore National Pike.

AFRO Photos by Roman Hankewycz

THE 'KING DAVID SINGERS' sponsoring group for the dinner concert sing heartily during their performance at the concert.

THE 'VOICES OF DIVINITY', singing duo of Baltimore do their stirring gospel songs during the event.

DIANN FRANKLIN, recording gospel vocalist of Cincinnati, Ohio, pours her heart into her performance as she sings her gospel songs.

FEELIN' THE SPIRIT are these audience members who shouted and clapped as the music of the evening brought them into the aisles.

More than 1,000 folks (both black and white) thronged Martin's West Sunday, July 11 for the 'Zoe' Dinner Concert presented by the youthful but dynamic 'King David Singers' under the leadership of Rufus G. Langston.

Zoe is a Greek word which, translated, means 'The true life of God', and this word seemed to set the tone for an inspirational evening which began at 7:30 p.m. and didn't end until after midnight.

'Make a joyful noise unto the Lord' typified the mood that prevailed throughout the hours uplifting song, words of praise and testimony unfolded.

Opening prayer was done by the Rev. J. Luther Carr, followed by a scrumptious dinner which began with fresh pineapple and stuffed boned breast of white hen and ended with a chocolate parfait dessert.

Langston, who also was chairperson for the event, introduced Vashti McKenzie, general manager, Radio Station WAYE, who served as a sparkly and vivacious emcee.

Special guest singing groups livened the assemblage with their spirited and soulful gospel music.

The guest groups included the 'Voices of Divinity', a soul-stirring vocal duo of Baltimore; The Last Generation of the Evangel Temple Middle River, Md.; whose harmony was superb; Diann Franklin, popular gospel recording vocalist of Cincinnati, Ohio, whose lyrical voice ran the gauntlet of 'its fantastic range' and the 'Followers of Christ', an all-male sextet of Tulsa, Okla. whose gospel tunes in powerfully-moving harmony, brought most people to their feet in praise.

Speaker for the occasion was David Waters of Hebron Faith Fellowship, 9251 Baltimore National Pike, Whose message was one of joy and hope.

He opened with the song 'Let Us Sing Him Songs of Praise, Alleluia', which had members of the audience getting out of their seats and into the aisles to clap, shout, speak in tongues and sing along with him.

He preached an optimistic sermon from First Genesis on the blessings and forgiveness of God, one which left the audience uplifted.

The featured and sponsoring group of thirteen (six men and seven women) — the 'King David Singers followed the speaker. Their vibrant, youthful voices raised in songs and praise, which had been composed by their director, Langston, and their singing was interspersed with dramatic spiritual testimony.

The group has only been together for four years and have had no musical training at all. They feel that God chose them for their singing ministry and anointed their voices to sing for His glory.

They sang a cappello for the first three years, then last year began to sing with the accompaniment of musicians. They sing with gusto, harmony and drama their faces beaming with some inner joy.

Under the leadership of Langston they put together an evening that would have to be termed 'religiously fulfilling'.

Seen among the crowd were Judge Robert Bell, of the Supreme Bench, Baltimore; Kurt Schmoke, who is running for the office of States's Attorney; his campaign manager Larry Gibson, former Baltimore Colt player Lenny Moore and Helen Stafford, formerly 'on the mayor's office

28th annual Christian Youth Seminar is a success

The 28th annual Christian Youth Seminar was June 27 through July 2, at Shaw University in Raleigh, N. C. The seminar was sponsored by the Lott Carey Baptist Foreign Mission Convention. The Rev. Marcus G. Wood, pastor of Providence Baptist Church was the director.

More than 500 youth attended the seminar. The theme was "Christian Youth Meeting Current Problems, Head On." The purpose of the seminar is to give youth a world wide view of current problems, to offer a Christian approach and techniques in meeting these problems, and to create and awaken in youth a sense of responsibility as Christians.

Rev. Wood told the youth, "We need to face the problems that are closing in on mankind and let our feelings be known. We don't have time to waste. We must begin to participate now in trying to change the future for ourselves and others."

Rev. Wood said the teenagers sent cards to President Reagan expressing their concerns about nuclear warfare. One of the cards was written by Vanessa, 16, from Baltimore.

"I am writing to you to ask you to please stop the nuclear warfare. You had your chance to live now let me have mine," she said.

The Rev. James Forbes, Associate Professor of Homiletics and Worship at Union Theological Seminary was the guest speaker.

Counselors were Rebecca Pope, Ronald Austin, Howard Parker, Sylvia Rowerd Antionette Thornton, Valinda Bentley.

Wayne Wiggins, Arthur Cobb, Kimberly Lee, Regina Pierce, Edward Grimes and Richard Johnson also were counselors.

Metro church briefs

The Rev. Charles T. Bullock of St. James Baptist Church in Rocky Mount, NC will be the speaker at Emmanuel Christian Community Church, Carrollton Avenue and Lanvale Street on July 25, 10 a.m. The Rev. Sidney Daniels is pastor.

Members of the Maryland Suburban Mass Choir and the Baltimore Chapter of the Gospel Music Workshop Choirs of America will have their concentration dedication and communion service on July 30, 8 p.m. at First Baptist Church, 7304 Oakland Mills Rd. The Rev. Evora Robinson is founder and president, Ron Whitehead is business manager and Pauline Downing is publicity chairperson.

The senior ushers of Ray of Hope Baptist Church will present Mrs. Dorothy Phillips, in a mini recital on July 25, 5 p.m. at the church, 3000 Parkside Drive. The Rev. C. M. Franklin is pastor.

Annual Men's Day will be observed on July 25 at Calvary Baptist Church, 3911 Garrison Blvd. The Rev. Roy Johnson, pastor of Good Tidings Baptist Church, is the 11 a.m. speaker and the Rev. Herman Williamson, pastor of Zion Baptist Church is the 4 p.m. speaker. James Fleming is president and the Rev. Lorenzo Graves is pastor.

Women in White Day will be observed on Sunday, July 25, 4 p.m. at First Christian Community Baptist Church, 4116 Groveland Ave. Eileen McCloud is chairlady and the Rev. Ernest Humphrey is pastor.

The Oblate Sisters of Providence will host their alumni and friends at the annual Homecoming Day at Mount Providence, Gun and Rolling Roads, Sunday, Aug. 1, from 11 a.m. until 6 p.m.

The Rev. George Quickley, SJ of the St. Aloysius Church in Washington, D.C., will be the main celebrant and homilist at the Mass in the convent chapel at 12 noon.

Dinner, which will be served in Sacred Heart Hall from 2:30 until 4:30 p.m., at the cost of $6, will be available to all ticket holders.

Tickets will not be presold, but will be available during the pre-dinner hours at designated areas throughout the grounds.

Presentations by chapter representatives will be made immediately after the Mass. Friends and relatives, as well as alumni, are welcome.

The annual Sunday School and Holy Young Peoples Convention of the Fire Baptized Holiness Church of God of the Americas of Maryland - Delaware District will convene this year in Ellendale, Del., from July 16 through 18.

A welcoming program is being planned at the Shiloh F.B.H. Church. The host pastor is the Rev. Andrew Spellman.

This convention addresses issues related to the development of bettering Christian Education and doctrinology of the F.B.H. Church.

The Saturday H.Y.P.U. session will be presided over by the Directress of Religious Education, the Rev. Mrs. Precious T. Davis.

Theme: "Youth For Christ in Christ." A play will be presented by the drama guild depicting experiences of Christian youth. The play was written by Margaret A. Tindal, founder of the guild.

On Sunday, the District Superintendent, Deacon Donald D. Davis, will open Sunday School and the staff will be in charge.

Elder J.L. Washington is presiding over the convention and a new Bishop, the Rev. J.J. Martin will be welcomed to the district.

The Annual Graduate's Banquet for the Department of Religious Education of the District will be at Mewshaw's Hiltop Restaurant Saturday, July 24, at 6:30 p.m.

The speaker will be the Rev. Dr. Jeremiah Fennell, Overseer of the African Project. Dr. Fennell and his evangelistic team have done much in Liberia and Monrovia, West Africa to bring God's plan of salvation to the people of these countries.

Tickets are $15. Mrs. Precious T. Davis is the program's coordinator.

Attend the Church of Your Choice