



Burrell

# Francheria Burrell receives scholarship

Special to THE CHRONICLE

Francheria Burrell is the recipient of a scholastic scholarship from Alpha Mu Sigma Chapter, Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority Inc.

Fran, as she is lovingly called, is the daughter of Soror Carolyn and Hairston Burrell. She is a 1999 graduate of North Forsyth High School. She will enroll at Benedict College in Columbia, S.C., this fall.

She is a member of Mt. Zion Baptist Church and is very active in many activities in the church, including youth choir, Sunday school, hand-bell choir, food service and others. Fran enjoys helping others and loves people.

She is also active in the community and is a member of the Rhoer Club of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority. Fran has served as president of the Rhoer Club for the last five years. She won the

Miss Rhomania Contest, which gave young girls bonds toward their college tuition.

Fran is a leader. Her leadership ability was displayed as she performed as the team leader during a recent symposium sponsored by the sorority. She was chosen president of the Crosby Scholars Program at North Forsyth High School.

She participated in a Freshmen Scholars Program at Winston-Salem State University. This program was designed to help students pass the SAT exam; they were taught English, math and vocabulary. These young people stayed on the campus for two weeks for the past four summers. This was to familiarize them with campus life to get students to attend black colleges and universities and help them to learn to live with each other in a college setting.

# Charlie and Evangelist Blanche Reaves celebrate 58th wedding anniversary

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Charlie Reaves and Evangelist Blanche H. Reaves celebrated their 58th wedding anniversary June 28 with a prayer meeting in their home with friends.

Mr. Reaves organized the Gospel Choir of Goodwill Baptist Church under the leadership of the Rev. R.Q. Allen

(deceased) in the '60s and was president for about 26 years.

Evangelist Reaves was the first woman minister licensed in Goodwill Baptist Church, also under the Rev. R.Q. Allen.

The Reaveses served faithfully for more than 60 years until their health failed. Mr. Reaves is recovering at their home on West 24 1/2 Street in Winston-Salem.

# Daughter of Winston-Salem couple is backing NATO's peace plan

By DAVID W. CRENSHAW

**ABOARD USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT** - Floating silently off the coast of the former Yugoslavia in the Ionian and Adriatic seas is the largest naval force assembled since Desert Storm. Their goal is simple ... to stop the suffering of at least 1.5 million ethnic Albanians, liberate their homeland and safely return them to their cities and loved ones in Kosovo.

With the prospect of peace in the war-torn country, sailors like Moza C. Seat, daughter of Winston-Salem, know they're doing their part to restore stability and cooperation within the region.

As a crew member with VS-24, an antisubmarine squadron aboard the aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt, Seat is one of the nearly 6,000 men and women currently deployed to

provide support in the Adriatic region.

A 1998 graduate of Carver High School, Seat joined the Navy the same year. "I joined for the educational opportunities," she said. "Two of my high school classmates are also in the Navy."

Seat is an important part of the VS-24 team. "I run the squadron store and take inventory, and make deposits at the bank," said the airman. "I like that I get to see everyone in the squadron every day because I feed them every day, and I also like that I'm being responsible for so much



Photo by David W. Crenshaw, U.S. Navy  
Seat

money."

Currently, the carrier and its battle group are operating in the Mediterranean Sea in support of operations Allied Force and Joint Guardian. The United States has joined 18 NATO allies and several other nations in providing personnel, equipment and weapons in this operation. The United States has contributed more than 2,000 tons of food, 1,900 tons of shelter, 700 tons of equipment and 50 tons of medical supplies.

For Seat, naval service has been a learning experience as well as a chance to serve her country. "I've learned patience, leadership and discipline," she said.

Nevertheless, she noted that even with participation in operations like Allied Force and Joint Guardian, naval service has also included many unique and exciting experiences. "Some of the

most exciting things I've done are participating in battle stations, and watching flight operations on the flight deck," she said.

Even with all she's learned and experienced, Seat says she hasn't yet decided how long she'd like her Navy career to last. "I plan to become a master-at-arms, and I hope to be promoted to petty officer first class before I do leave the Navy," she said.

"After the Navy, I'd like to become an FBI agent."

Wherever the winds may take her, Seat will know she significantly contributed to the stability and peace in an unstable world. She'll also have the pride and satisfaction that come from wearing a Navy uniform.

David W. Crenshaw is a photojournalist assigned to the Navy Public Affairs Center in Norfolk, Va.

# Link may explain higher risk of colorectal cancer for blacks

By CAROLYN THOMPSON THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**BUFFALO, N.Y.** - Unique genetic mutations identified among some blacks have been found to increase their risk for cancer of the colon and rectum, according to a new study.

The finding by researchers from Roswell Park Cancer Institute could help in early diagnosis of the colorectal disease, a key to survival.

"Knowing the alterations is helpful when trying to look for them in families that are affected," said Dr. Thomas Weber, who led the study.

While similar links between

colorectal cancer and specific genetic mutations have already been established among a handful of nationalities and ethnic groups, the Roswell Park study was the first to focus on blacks.

The results are published in the current issue of the Journal of the American Medical Association.

The nation's third-leading cause of cancer deaths, colorectal cancer is expected to strike 129,400 people in the United States this year and kill 55,000.

Blacks suffer higher rates of cancer of the colon and rectum than other racial and ethnic groups and die more frequently from the disease.

However, the researchers said

the genetic alterations are probably not an explanation for the higher death rate; that is largely attributable to late-stage diagnosis.

In any case, Weber said, regular screening for cancer is essential.

"Anything we can do to help identify who's at risk and direct clinical surveillance to those people would be very helpful," he said.

Despite easy take-home tests, only about 40 percent of Americans over the age of 50 are screened regularly for colorectal cancer, the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported earlier this year.

The Roswell Park research, done over the past two years,

looked at 11 unrelated black colorectal cancer patients.

The study determined that defects of the so-called "mismatch repair" genes, which normally repair DNA in cells that fail to replicate properly, contribute to hereditary nonpolyposis colorectal cancer.

The American Cancer Society recommends that men and women 50 or older have a fecal occult blood test annually to detect cancers of the colon or rectum. In addition, internal colon exams or double-contrast barium enemas are recommended every five years.

Screening should begin earlier for people with a strong family history of cancer.

## Infertility

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establishment and fear the commitment. They don't want to be tracked down."

The only thing Cathy and David wanted to track down was an egg donor.

They used the OPTIONS facility and, at a cost of \$12,000 for finding a donor and conducting medical exams, found a young black woman who said she was willing to provide her eggs. The couple spent another \$3,500 for the woman's medications. But she backed out when she saw the needle used for the procedure.

Prospective egg donors take a combination of hormones to stimulate egg maturation. A long needle is inserted through the vagina to remove a few eggs from the ovaries. Sperm from the father are then combined with the egg and implanted into the mother's uterus.

"After waiting so long, I was completely frustrated with the process," David said. "You build your hopes and dreams along the way. Everything is moving like clockwork right down until it's

time to take the injection and everything falls apart. It was complete heartbreak."

Yet Cathy wanted to try again.

Terry Royal, director of OPTIONS, said she has found prospective black egg donors are less likely to go through with the procedure than their white counterparts. While 97 percent of white, Asian and Hispanic women complete the donation, only about 25 percent of black women do, she said.

"I'm in constant search for (black) women who have empathy for the couple and aren't the type who will walk away," she said.

Royal said some agencies she declined to name won't work with black women donors because so few complete the process. A firm can lose \$10,000 to \$20,000 in medical screenings and legal fees when a donor backs out, she noted.

"The black donors we talk to tell us they were turned down by X company or Y company and they are happy to find we talk to them," Royal said.

In July 1998, OPTIONS found

another would-be black egg donor for Cathy and David.

But after the couple spent \$7,500 in fees and medication for the woman, the donor began complaining of stomach cramps. In a cruel irony, she had just gotten pregnant.

By November, the couple totaled their losses at more than \$24,000.

One of their worst moments occurred when Temple University students laughed at and taunted them as they handed out homemade fliers on campus seeking potential black egg donors.

Also troubling was the coolness of their own relatives, they said. The couple thought they'd find compassion. They got indifference.

"Our situation became a kind of conversation piece, but no one wanted to help," Cathy said. "Their attitude was, 'I'm not going to ruin my body for you.'"

For David, the fight was over. "I was moving her towards adopting. That was it."

But it wasn't.

In the last six months, Munabi located another prospective donor.

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