

About The United States

Two Years In West Africa Hasn't Defiled Burch's Mind

By Teresa Burns  
Post Staff Writer  
Two years in Ouagadougou, Upper Volta (West Africa) hasn't defiled Toria Burch's mind about the United States.

The emphasis of going back to our roots played a major part in her decision to live with her uncle, aunt and cousin in Ouagadougou.

But she admits, "It's a nice change but I would prefer to live in the states permanently."

Since her uncle, William Gaymon, works with the United Nations, his family was stationed in West Africa two years ago.

His daughter, Nicole, was then 13 and wanted her cousin Toria Burch, daughter of Gloria and James Burch, as a companion in the strange land.

"I thought I wouldn't get another chance, so I decided to go," Ms. Burch, who is now 16, explained.

Both Toria and Nicole attend a private French school in the city. Both were put back a grade because courses are taught in French.

Ms. Burch caught onto the language fairly quickly and was allowed to skip a grade. She was promoted to her correct 11th grade as a result.

She has learned French, Spanish and Latin at the school and even has to take English.

"But they teach the British English and they have words I have never heard of before," she explained.

This is a learning experience for the entire family. Reading about various countries often takes you there in a peculiar sort of way. But actually being a resident of Ouagadougou has given Ms. Burch understanding and even compassion for the city.

The following are Ms. Burch's impressions of the city.

Living Quarters: "If you can afford running water and electricity you can get it. But about 70 percent of

Others who are not as fortunate financially take pieces of material and wrap it around their bodies for skirts and tops, Ms. Burch has noticed.

"The women and little girls have doughnut-shaped round pieces of cloth on top of their heads to haul pots of water or fruit."

"They use the Upper Volta woven material which is called More."

Language: "The people in the village speak the language also called More."

Government officials of the country have to be able to speak French also.

Some of the villagers can speak French, especially if they sell in the city. They have to know French to communicate. Some also speak English. Children learn French in school."

Religion: "The churches are either Muslim or Catholic. There is one church in English for the 200 or so Americans in the city. Most of the Americans are with the Peace Corps."

Government: "The government of Upper Volta was recently taken over by force and now has a military president. The president now is black. Ouagadougou is the capitol of Upper Volta and has about

2 million residents."  
Entertainment: "There are no McDonald's or other fast food chains there. There is one air conditioned movie theatre. But there is no candy or popcorn in the theatre."  
"We have the comforts of home - air conditioning and TV but there is nothing really on good to watch."  
The Rains: "From June to August it will rain every other day. During this time nothing grows. But when the rains stop the harvest is plentiful. The fruits are better during the dry season."

Read The Post!



Toria Burch  
...African resident

the people live in houses in the bush made out of clay with straw, tin roofs and no window panes."

A whole family may live in a circle of huts with a mud fence around them. They'll have chickens and sheep and grain. Each hut may be about 10 feet long with cement floors, a bed and a chest filled with the family's treasures."

Cars: "No one has a drivers license in Ouagadougou. Anyone can drive anything. I have seen little children driving large motorcycles."

There is no speed limit, no traffic violations, and they act like it too. Since there is no public transportation many of the residents travel by mopeds or bikes."

"Most roads are not paved. The roads that are paved are bumpy and they don't have lines. Downtown there are lights."

Prices: "Since the country does not have many resources, they import from France. By the time the product is shipped there the price has tripled. Gasoline is \$3 a liter."

Dress: "In restaurants it's rare that you see women dressed in pants. Blacks in Ouagadougou who have money wear clothes from Paris, France. The men may wear suits or African robes. Jeans are coming in over there now also."



CONSISTORY NO. 35 SINGERS - Members of the Consistory No. 35 Singers are shown above. They are from left to right Prince Laocia Mungo, 32nd-Degree;

Prince Paul Ford, 32nd Degree; Prince Ulysses Isaac, 32nd Degree (President and Grand Inspector General) and Andrew R. Brewton, 33rd Degree.

Here Sunday

J.F. Ferguson Singers

To Perform In Concert

By Nancy Anderson  
Post Staff Writer  
The Scottish Rite Mason (affiliated with the W. H. Ferguson Singers), one of the most diligent organizations in Charlotte, will perform Sunday, October 4, in a gospel ensemble at South Tryon Presbyterian Church.

Only a baby in existence, these gentlemen of par-

excellence have strived effortlessly to aid support to charitable causes. "We don't do anything for money," implied member Andrew R. Brewton. Brewton holds position as treasurer and Grand Inspector General. "All money that the groups acquires is given to other needy organizations or charities."

Only born a year ago, the

WomanReach To Offer Workshop

Do you have trouble getting organized? WomanReach is offering a Workshop for Sidetracked Home Executives that could be the answer to your prayers!

The workshop begins Tuesday, October 20, from 7-9 p.m. for five session at 1009 East Blvd.

Through informal sharing, Bettye Coleman Mynatt, will introduce an easy system of organizing your home based on the book "Sidetracked Home Executives" by the former slob sisters. To register call 334-3614 by Friday, October 16th.

group has contributed money to the NAACP, the National Negro College Fund, and the Sickle Cell Anemia Foundation.

The W. H. Ferguson Singers and the Masons affiliated together, is also made up of the Charlotte Consistory No. 35, consisting of over 250 members.

Additional gospel groups partaking in the ensemble are University Park Baptist Church Men's Chorus, Rameses Temple No. 51 (Shriners) Chanters, Mayfield Memorial Baptist Church, John Chapel Choir, The QC's of Mt. Holly, Mt. Olive Presbyterian Chorus, The Joy-Joy Singers and the Spiritual Sisters of Bel-forte Presbyterian Church.

Other members of the W. H. Ferguson Gospel Group are Prince Michael Lloyd, 32nd Degree; Prince Walter Lewis, 32nd Degree; Prince James Williams, 32nd Degree, Prince Dolphus Parker, 32nd Degree, Prince Bill Love, 32nd Degree, Prince Cleveland Wright, 32nd Degree and Prince Steve Covington, 32nd Degree.



Vanessa Bartley  
...Joins JCSU staff

JCSU Appoints

Ms. Bartley

Development VP

Vanessa deSaussure Bartley, a native of Columbia, S.C., has been appointed assistant to the vice president for development at Johnson C. Smith University.

Ms. Bartley, formerly a field director for the NAACP in Atlanta, is a graduate of Bennett College with a master's degree from Tulane University.

She will have primary responsibility for government relations and assist with fund-raising and administration of the development program.

"The new position," said Ray Davis, vice president for development, "will enable us to do some things we haven't, and other things better."

"We believe our newest member will further enrich a productive team, already abundant in initiative and 'extra mile' dedication to the future of our university."

The development program at Johnson C. Smith includes fund-raising, planning, institutional research, alumni affairs, public relations and sports information.

Wilson Tillman Enlists In US Air Force

Wilson J. Tillman Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. Wilson J. Tillman Sr., of 1601 Crawford Drive, has enlisted in the U.S. Air Force. Airman Tillman joined under the Air Force's Delayed Enlistment Program. This program will allow Airman Tillman, a senior at West Charlotte High School, to graduate before reporting for active duty on June 22, 1982.

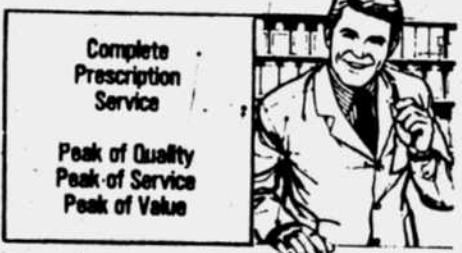
Sergeant Steve Dagenhart, Air Force recruiter in Charlotte, stated that Airman Tillman successfully completed a series of tests which qualified him for the security specialist field of training.

BATCH All-Stars

The BATCH Traveling All-Stars closed their 1981 season with a 7-1 win over the Highland Racquet Club in Gastonia.

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  - Blistex or Blistik Balm 2 for 1.00
  - KLEENEX - 200 ct. Facial Tissues .59
  - 3-PACK KNEE-HI HOSIERY (choice of shades) .89
  - DISPOSABLE LIGHTERS (Adjustable 'Butane' Flame) 3 for 1.00
  - EKCO Kitchen Tolls (Basting or Slotted spoon, small or large turner-your choice) 1.00
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