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Tamara Ford
...Harding High senior

Lovely Tamara Ford Has Right Qualifications

By Jalyne Strong
Post Staff Writer

Tamara Ford, a Harding High School senior, appears to have the right qualifications to pursue her interest in nursing. She's intelligent, having made Honor Roll this year and graduating in the top 10 percent of her class. She's reliable, with perfect attendance records in both junior and senior high school. And she's compassionate. "I enjoy helping people," she replies, when asked why she chose the health profession. More than likely these attributes helped Tamara to win a four-year nursing scholarship from the Chi Eta Phi Sorority. The 18-year-old graduating senior will be using the endorsement when she enters Winston-Salem State University this fall. "I've heard that Winston-Salem has a very good nursing program," Tamara points out.

Nursing is a demanding, stressful and underrated profession, yet Tamara assures it's nothing she can't handle. "You have to learn to cope," she says. "I feel I can do it." Tamara relates, indicating that she's obtained experience already by doing volunteer work at Memorial Hospital for two years.

One other interest this week's beauty will be pursuing at Winston-Salem is to play with the university's Marching Band. A clarinet player, Tamara spent this year playing with her high school's band. "I have confidence," she maintains as she looks forward to band try-outs at Winston-Salem. "I'll try hard and hopefully I'll make it," she reveals.

A true musician, Tamara has also played the piano for six years. Her ability on the keys earned her first place at the Omega Psi Phi piano recital in 1983. Unfortunately, Tamara projects she'll be giving up the piano next year. "I want to concentrate on my studies and just playing the clarinet," she explains.

Tamara describes herself as "talkative, understanding and outgoing." Maybe these personal characteristics assisted her in garnering two other awards. In 1983, she was runner-up in the Zeta Phi Beta "Miss Blue Revue" contest, then, this year, Tamara became the 1985 winner, based on raising the most money for the organization's scholarship program.

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IBM Funds Urban League Youth Summer Work Program

Special To The Post

The IBM Corporation has enabled the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Urban League to establish a special summer work and education program for disadvantaged youth with a gift of \$25,000, Robert M. Alston, League Executive Director announced.

The eight week summer program will give classroom instruction and on-the-job experience to 18 vocational education students who attend Charlotte-Mecklenburg Public High Schools and live in low-income neighborhoods.

The Program provides basic skills enrichment (English, Reading and Math) and teaches work and living skills. It also is designed to stimulate the student's interest in word processing and information systems careers.

Mayor Harvey Gantt, hailed the Program as an unusual opportunity for the Charlotte students. "We have some human service organizations that provide skill instruction to high school students during the summer, but none offers this combination of education, work experience, as well as exposure to job opportunities."

"The Urban League and IBM have opened up an opportunity for some Charlotteans who have had few advantages, and it comes at the right time. During the next three years, we expect some 7,000 new jobs in Charlotte-Mecklenburg that will require word processing and information systems skills. This Program will show the students opportunities they might not have seen themselves."



Mayor Harvey Gantt
...Hails the program



Donald Bowen
...Director of center



Robert Alston
...Executive director

Alston pointed out that the Program will strongly encourage the students to complete high school, to plan for their futures, and to consider careers in business.

"We want to expose the students to a downtown working environment," said Donald Bowen, Director of the Center. "We want them to understand the need to get to work on time; to become comfortable associating with business people; and see the variety of job possibilities."

Alston said that students interested in the Urban League Summer Program, should apply in person

before May 29 at the City of Charlotte Employment and Training Department, 600 East Trade St., City Hall Annex.

The Job Training Center, which opened late last year, offers similar programs during the school year for non-students. The Center is administered by the Urban League and is funded by the City of Charlotte, IBM and 28 other businesses in the Charlotte area.

"This Center brings together the best of City government and the best of the private business sector," Gantt said when the Center was announced last September.

Ronald Terpak, General Manager for the IBM Plant and Laboratory in Charlotte, noted that the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Urban League was one of 20 chosen among almost 70 applicants for summer program grants.

"We are very pleased that the IBM Corporation selected the Charlotte Center to receive a grant for this summer program," said Terpak. "We want to share our success with our community in every possible way."

Terpak noted that IBM has been involved around the country since 1968 in establishing Job Training Programs for the disadvantaged.

Robert Pence: "Bank Robbers Are Not Breadwinners"

By Audrey C. Lodato
Post Staff Writer

As of mid-May, there have been 14 bank robberies in Charlotte this year. Statewide, the number is 50. According to Robert Pence, Special Agent in Charge of the F.B.I.'s Charlotte field office, these figures represent both an increase and a decrease: statewide, the number of bank robberies is up over the same period last year; but in Charlotte, the figure is down.

Part of Charlotte's decrease, said Pence, seems to be attributable to the fact that, last year, the "Goated Robber" and a few others were responsible for multiple robberies.

Factors such as the economy and hard times have nothing to do with the incidence of bank robbery," he revealed. Bank robbers, typically, are not "breadwinners" and the act of bank robbery is not done out of "desperation," according to the F.B.I. Special Agent. "Very few are doing it to feed their families," he declared.

Rather, in the past few years, the typical bank robber is a male, 24-26 years old, of average height and medium weight, who has either robbed a bank before or has a history of involvement in other violent crime, such as armed robbery of a convenience store. Most are

either under the influence of drugs at the time of the robbery or are perpetrating the crime to feed their drug habit. "The primary motive," Pence attested, "is to get money for drugs."

Why has bank robbery in the state increased? Pence isn't sure. "It's something that's caught on," he remarked. The phenomenon, actually, is based on myth: that "banks are where the money's at" and that bank robbers don't get caught.

Regarding the notion that banks are easy money, Pence noted that the average "take" in a bank robbery is only \$2-\$3,000, even when the larger heists are included. Often, the

robber gets only a few hundred dollars. With today's bank procedures, explained Pence, not much money is available at the teller windows.

As to the chance of getting away with the crime, don't bet on it. Most bank robbers are caught. Of last year's 109 bank robberies statewide, more than 80 percent have already been solved. So far this year, the solution rate is 70-75 percent, which is a very high rate for this early in the years," Pence noted. Normally, the percentage of bank robberies solved increases with time.

"It's not a difficult crime for us to handle and solve," Pence pointed out, "but it is difficult to deter."

Part of the reason for the relative ease with which this type of crime is solved is what Pence referred to as the "tremendous law-enforcement response; all levels converge at once." (The F.B.I. becomes involved in any bank robbery of a federally chartered or insured institution.) In addition to police response, other factors include good physical evidence, networks of sources and informants, and cooperative citizens. This is one crime that is "stacked against the perpetrator," emphasized Pence.

The penalty isn't to be taken lightly, either. As a federal offense, armed robbery carries a 25 year prison sentence.

Last year, 75-80 percent of the bank robberies committed in North Carolina were armed. Nationwide, however, the rate is only 50 percent. Pence attributed this to the "southern phenomena of having more violence than the rest of the country."

Although most robbers are caught, the money they stole is not always recovered. According to Pence, money is difficult to track and identify. It is usually spent in such a way that it cannot be recovered. Although property bought with stolen money can be seized, property "in kind" cannot be. In other words, if a bank robber stole \$1,000, only that money or property bought with it can be recovered; property valued at the amount, but bought with other money, cannot be seized.

"Commitments To Their Church" Reason Given For Participating In CWOY Contest

By Loretta Manago
Post Staff Writer

Shopping sprees, gift certificates from various businesses in the city and a luxurious trip to the Bahamas aren't the only reasons that some contestants have decided to enter the Post's "Churchworker of the Year" contest.

For contestants like Lucille Johnson of Matthews-Murkland Presbyterian Church, Brenda Prince of Greater Bethel AME Zion Church, Bessie Marshall of Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, Brenda Wall of Antioch Baptist Church and Mollie Massey of Walls Memorial AME Zion Church, reasons for participating in this year's contest have much to do with their commitments to their churches.

"My participation in the contest really stems from my desire to give Matthews-Murkland some recognition. I'd like to help in that aspect. I feel this is a good way to get people to know that Matthews-Murkland is a unique place to worship," uttered Mrs. Johnson. She added, "I'm not setting my sights on any particular prize."

Since Mrs. Johnson was chosen "Mother of the Year" at her church, she was the natural se-



Bessie Marshall
...Wants to involve youth in contest.

The experience of participating in a contest of this caliber is all Brenda Prince is hoping to gain from the contest. "I think it will be a great experience to learn more about the newspaper. My family receives the Post at home, but because of my studies, I don't get to read it as thoroughly as I'd like to," commented Ms. Prince.

A junior at Garinger High School, Ms. Prince joined the contest after hearing about it from her mother.

Bessie Marshall makes it plain that the grand prize is not what she is after. "I just think that if somebody in my group can accomplish something, the effort will have been worthwhile. I also want the young people on my committee to become involved," explained Mrs. Marshall.

Although Mrs. Marshall is not certain as to how she was selected as the contestant from her church, she said that she "was willing to participate."

In Mrs. Wall's opinion it's important for black people to support the black press. "Black people should support the black press. I feel that that's our responsibility. A lot of people sit around and complain when they browse through the black paper and they don't see someone that they think should be in the paper. What I don't understand is how can it get in the paper if nobody tells the black press about it? We (blacks) buy the Charlotte Observer without any second thoughts and I think that blacks should support the black paper without any second thoughts."

BITTLE-TALK



Life is fragile... handle with prayer.