

Deirdre Alexander Anticipating Spending A Month In Goeborte, Sweden

By Jalyne Strong
Post Staff Writer

Eleven-year-old Deirdre Alexander is happily anticipating spending a month in Goeborte, Sweden, this summer as a selected participant in the Children's International Summer Village (CISV) International Association.

A resident of Upper Marlboro, Maryland, Deirdre is the daughter of former Charlotteans, Benjamin Alexander and Jackie Belton-Alexander and she is the granddaughter of Mable and Rollie Belton of Charlotte.

From July 3 until the 30, she will live in Sweden, spending weekdays in a dormitory setting (with three other children from the Washington, D.C., Metropolitan area and a counselor-traveling companion) and weekends with a Swedish host family.

The purpose of CISV is to bring children of different nationalities together to instill in them an appreciation of other cultures and teach them the value of living amicably with one another in the interest of peace and understanding.

Earlier this year Deirdre and her mother became aware of CISV while attending the International Bazaar at the Convention Center in Washington, D.C. Deirdre filled out an application for the CISV Selection Committee; it required recommendations from her teacher and principal and a portion had to be completed by her parents; then she took part in an oral interview. Afterwards, she waited to be notified by mail. Thirty children were competing for the 12 openings with CISV this year.

"I couldn't wait to get the letter," remembers Deirdre. "I tried to forget about it sometimes. But I kept bugging my mother a lot."

Finally the letter arrived informing an excited young girl that she



Deirdre Alexander
...An excited young lady

was one of the finalists. Deirdre was then invited to a CISV Mini Camp which in itself was a test to see how well the children selected would interact with each other.

"I knew they (the selection committee) were going to watch the way I acted with the other children," says Deirdre. "I talked with everyone and we all played games."

She did well enough to become one of the four children destined for Sweden. The other eight children in the program will be going to Costa Rica and Argentina, four to each country.

Starting this month, Deirdre will meet with her counselor every other Sunday until July, to prepare for her trip. She will be learning about Sweden and a little of the language.

She says, the things she's looking forward to most about the trip are

"being with other children, doing chores around the house, shopping and sightseeing."

Her involvement in CISV and the fact of the trip have also made Deirdre a hometown celebrity. "All my friends were really happy," she points out. "And my teacher was rooting for me all the time I was waiting for my letter. When it came, she gave a copy of it to the principal, who announced it to the whole school over the intercom!"

CISV is a family-oriented organization and the parents of the children are encouraged to participate in its many functions. They host meetings at their homes and take part in, especially, promoting CISV and recommending other children to the program. The children, from now on called "Villagers," are also persuaded to remain with the organization after their CISV trip. They can go on to become Junior Counsellors at age 14.

Deirdre, who says she wants to be "famous" when she grows up, believes CISV will make a big difference in her life. "I'll be able to keep the friends I make in Sweden, I can become a junior counselor, and I'll remember it as one good thing that I've done in my life," she relates.

Thinking of her mother and sister, Lauren, six, both of whom she'll be away from for a month this summer, Deirdre comments, "I'll send them a postcard and I might call collect. I'll miss them but I won't be sad because I'll be with other people my age."



The oratorical contest the Las Amigas club held at Discovery Place yielded three winners. In level I (grades, 6-7), the winner was LaDonna Stephens; in level II (grades, 8-9), the winner was Marjorie Kanipes. In level III (grades, 10-12), the winner was Katherine Johnson. Other participants in the contest were Ricardo Young, Willette Robertson, Kysha Morris, Michelle McCoy, and Margaret Kanipes.

Fashion Extravaganza

"Fashion Extravaganza" will be presented by the Bethlehem Center on Sunday, April 13, beginning at 3 p.m. Terry Straite will coordinate the event. Donations are \$2. All proceeds will go towards the Bethlehem Center's Youth activities.

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Talk About College Workshop

By Bonita Hardin
Post Staff Writer

Students at Independent High School are no longer waiting to talk about college when they become sophisticated seniors anymore!

A "Let's Talk About College" workshop will be held at 7 p.m. at Independence High School on Tuesday, April 15, for sophomore students and their parents and Thursday, April 17, for junior students and their parents.

Ms. Cheryl Pappas, Independence guidance counselor said she recognized a need to conduct this workshop because many students had come to her expressing their college concerns.

"It will prepare students early enough before they become seniors and assist them in their college decision making," Ms. Pappas commented.

She said area college admissions officials will present useful information on: academic preparations, college admissions, career decisions, and financial planning.

"Since this is the first time for this

Livingstone Hosts Gerontological Training Conference

Livingstone College will host the third Annual Conference on Gerontological training, Tuesday, April 29.

This year's keynote speaker will be Phillip J. Kirk Jr., Secretary of the North Carolina Department of Human Resources. Kirk, a native of Salisbury and graduate of Catawba College, was appointed by Governor James G. Martin in January 1985. He is the youngest cabinet secretary in the state's history. Kirk will address the audience on "Senior Citizens - An Untapped Resource," in the Little Theatre on Livingstone's campus at 10:30 a.m.

At noon a luncheon will be held at Salisbury Holiday Inn. The luncheon speaker will be Ms. Glendale Wiggins, Program Specialist with the National Area Agency on Aging. Following her address there will be a panel of representatives from organizations and educational institutions to discuss gerontological training.

The fee for the conference, including lunch at the Holiday Inn and conference materials, is \$15 by mail and \$20 at the registration table on the morning of April 29. For additional information, contact the Social Work-Sociology Department of Livingstone at 704-633-7960, ext. 40. The public is invited to attend.

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