

North Brunswick High School (Continued)



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Versatile North High Graduate Chooses Smaller College

BY TERRY POPE

Michal Burton has a wide smile on her face, relieved that a tough decision is behind her with graduation approaching.

The 1992 North Brunswick High School senior will leave in September for Northfield, Minn., home of Carleton College. It's a small, liberal arts school with approximately 1,800 students.

In choosing Carleton, Michal turned down a prestigious Katherine Smith Reynolds Scholarship and N.C. Teaching Fellowship to attend the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. She also said no thanks to a Pogue Scholarship to attend the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

The decision agonized her parents, Lillian and Lexie Burton of Leland, almost as much as it did their youngest of seven children.

Before Michal left on a weekend trip to visit Carleton, they advised her to think things through carefully.

"This will be a nice little vacation," they told her. "I hope you enjoy it there, but please, please, go to Chapel Hill."

"Later, they really understood and supported me in my decision," she said after she picked Carleton, which is 40 miles from Minneapolis. "They have a culturally-diverse pool of students from across the nation."

A friend she met at the N.C.



STAFF PHOTO BY TERRY POPE

NORTH BRUNSWICK SENIOR Michal Burton plans to explore the world. At Carleton College, she hopes to spend her junior year studying abroad in Africa.

School of Mathematics and Science during her junior year had also chosen Carleton. Michal was impressed with her weekend stay, with the school's social clubs and multi-cultural groups.

"It seemed like a place where I'd like to be," said Michal. "It's kind of hard to make a decision when you're a junior and all of that mail starts pouring in. But after visiting Carleton, I knew I really wanted to go there."

Michal was one of 45 students to

receive competitive four-year Reynolds Scholarships to attend UNC-G, worth about \$3,500 per year. Instead, she will accept a National Achievement Negro College Scholarship and financial aid grants to attend the midwestern school that lets its juniors study aboard for a year with full college credit.

"I would like to go to Africa," she adds. "That's why I want to be fluent in French, because many of the smaller African nations are French-speaking countries."

In addition to language, she plans to study journalism and psychology. This summer she wants to serve as a volunteer for the Cape Fear Literacy Council and continue her job as receptionist at the Belville Town Hall.

At North Brunswick, she serves as news editor of the school newspaper, a peer counselor, member of the Students Against Drunk Driving chapter and was on the Quiz Bowl team. She also attended N.C. Governor's School, studying Eng-

lish and poetry during the summer of 1990.

The school newspaper, *The Scorpion Sting*, featured her editorial column titled, "Words in Search of the Time," borrowed from the last line of a poem she memorized while in Governor's School. In an April issue, she commented on student clothing that emulates late black leaders Malcolm X and Martin Luther King Jr., but said the men would "roll over in their graves" if they could see the display.

"I see drug dealers, those who have sold out their own people to an addiction fostered by a need to escape the harsh realities of being poor or discriminated against," she wrote, "proudly brandishing their Malcolm X hats and pins stating, 'By any means necessary!' I wonder, do they really know what that statement means?"

Fostering ideas was an everyday exercise for students at the N.C. School of Mathematics and Science. For Michal, the Durham school was a long, long way from Leland.

"Students there were just very active," she said. "We were very independent and tried to give the school a voice. They even circulated petitions about the cafeteria food. If you had an idea there, it just didn't drift away. Now, I don't feel daunted at all about sharing my opinions."

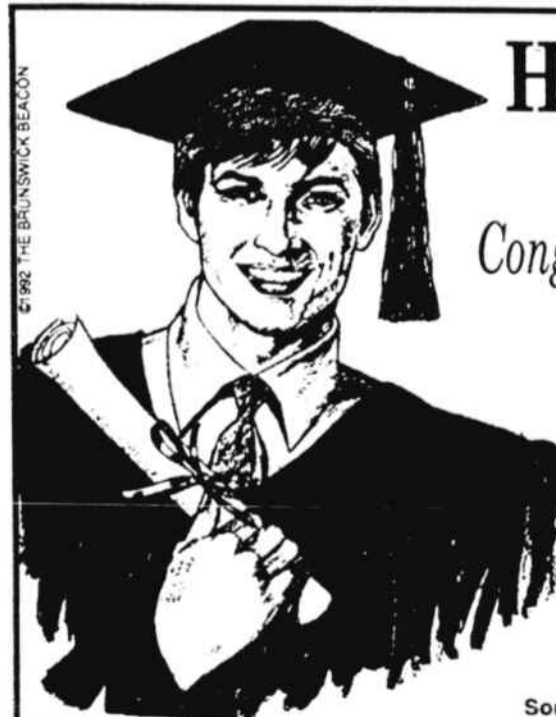
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