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# Daughter's Response to Viral, Harsh Obituary Sparks Outrage

## Description

A woman from Maine is shedding light on the controversial obituary she penned for her mother, which garnered international attention last month. Christina Novak's concise four-sentence obituary for her mother, Florence "Flo" Harrelson, was published in the Kennebec Journal on Aug. 30. The obituary stated that the 65-year-old passed away "without family by her side due to burnt bridges and a wake of destruction left in her path." It further conveyed that Florence did not want anyone, including family, to know of her demise as she wanted those she had terrorized to continue living in fear, even after her death.

Novak has since clarified that the obituary was not a joke but a serious public service announcement. She explained that she chose brevity in the obituary due to the word pricing for obituaries and her unwillingness to spend more money on her mother. Novak shared disturbing incidents from her childhood, where her mother took pleasure in ruining special occasions and even once pretended to throw her off a bridge, causing long-lasting anxiety.

Despite seeking approval from her mother's twin sister before submitting the obituary, Novak never expected it to gain global attention. Interestingly, Novak comes from a family accustomed to media attention, as she is the niece of William "Wild Bill" Davenport, known for his appearances on the reality show "Maine Cabin Masters." Davenport passed away last year at 73 and received a much longer and more positive obituary.

In conclusion, the obituary serves as a stark portrayal of a complex mother-daughter relationship that has captivated audiences worldwide, shedding light on dark family dynamics that often remain hidden.

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## Vocabulary List:

1. **Controversial** /ˌkɒn.trəˈvɜːʃəl/ (adjective): Giving rise or likely to give rise to public disagreement.
2. **Obituary** /əˈbɪtʃ.ʊ.ər.i/ (noun): A notice of someone's death often including a brief biography.
3. **Destruction** /dɪˈstrʌk.ʃən/ (noun): The act of causing so much damage to something that it no longer exists or cannot be repaired.
4. **Candid** /ˈkæn.dɪd/ (adjective): Truthful and straightforward; frank.
5. **Terrorized** /ˈtɛr.ə.raɪzd/ (verb): Created a state of extreme fear or anxiety in someone.
6. **Brevity** /ˈbrɛv.ɪ.ti/ (noun): Concise and exact use of words in writing or speech.

## Comprehension Questions



### Multiple Choice

1. What is the name of the woman from Maine who wrote the controversial obituary for her mother?

- Option: Christina Novak
- Option: Florence Harrelson
- Option: William Davenport
- Option: Megan Smith

2. When was the obituary for Florence "Flo" Harrelson published?

- Option: Aug 10
- Option: Aug 20
- Option: Aug 30
- Option: Sep 5

3. What reason was given for Florence Harrelson passing away without family by her side?

- Option: Natural causes
- Option: Burnt bridges and destruction
- Option: Accidental death
- Option: Family dispute

4. Where was the obituary published?

- Option: New York Times
- Option: Washington Post
- Option: Kennebec Journal
- Option: Los Angeles Times

5. Who is Christina Novak related to, known for his appearances on "Maine Cabin Masters" reality show?

- Option: William "Wild Bill" Davenport
- Option: Florence Harrelson
- Option: Megan Smith
- Option: Jack Johnson

6. What was the purpose behind Christina Novak's short obituary for her mother?

- Option: Family dispute
- Option: Public service announcement
- Option: Joke
- Option: Financial reasons



## Answer

**Multiple Choice:** 1. Christina Novak 2. Aug 30 3. Burnt bridges and destruction 4. Kennebec Journal  
5. William "Wild Bill" Davenport 6. Public service announcement

## Vocabulary quizzes

**Multiple Choice ( Select the Correct answer for each question. )**

1. Which of the following terms refers to a physical attack?  
Option: Inhumane  
Option: Assault  
Option: Demure  
Option: Jazzy
2. Which term describes a subject that causes disagreement or argument?  
Option: Monetizing  
Option: Controversial  
Option: Chemistry  
Option: Transform
3. What word is used to describe the action of causing severe damage or ruin?  
Option: Brevity  
Option: Destruction  
Option: Provocative  
Option: Chemistry
4. Which term refers to the state of being in agreement or connected?  
Option: Controversy  
Option: Embattled  
Option: Engagement  
Option: Terrorized
5. What trait does someone possess if they are adaptable and multi-talented?  
Option: Substantive  
Option: Versatility  
Option: Prevailing  
Option: Embattled



6. What written notice announces a person's death usually with a short biography?

- Option: Prevailing
- Option: Obituary
- Option: Allegations
- Option: Embattled

7. Which term describes something intended to provoke or elicit a reaction?

- Option: Provocative
- Option: Destruction
- Option: Assault
- Option: Jazzy

8. What word means to attract and hold the interest or attention of someone?

- Option: Captivated
- Option: Luminary
- Option: Prevailing
- Option: Monetizing

9. Which term refers to something intended to make up for a loss or to offset?

- Option: Controversial
- Option: Assault
- Option: Compensatory
- Option: Versatility

10. What word is used to describe actions or plans aimed at achieving a particular goal?

- Option: Strategic
- Option: Inhumane
- Option: Brevity
- Option: Assault

**Gap-Fill ( Fill in the blanks with the correct word from the vocabulary list. )**

11. \_\_\_\_\_ were made against the company regarding unethical practices.

12. The CEO's speech was brief highlighting the importance of \_\_\_\_\_ in communication.

13. The successful collaboration between the two musicians was due to their musical  
\_\_\_\_\_.

14. The event was attended by a \_\_\_\_\_ in the field of technology.

15. The social media platform focused on \_\_\_\_\_ its user base through targeted



advertising.

16. The team worked on \_\_\_\_\_ through the complex regulations to ensure compliance.
17. The lawyer entered a not guilty \_\_\_\_\_ on behalf of the defendant.
18. The report presented \_\_\_\_\_ evidence to support the claims.
19. The residents were \_\_\_\_\_ by the continuous noise coming from the construction site.
20. The company aimed to \_\_\_\_\_ its image through a rebranding campaign.

**Matching Sentences ( Match each definition to the correct word from the vocabulary list. )**

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| 21. The new policy announcement stirred up a lot of _____ in the community.            |
| 22. The unfortunate _____ resulted in a loss of trust among customers.                 |
| 23. Despite the challenges the team worked hard to overcome the issues.                |
| 24. The company's CEO faced criticism during the times.                                |
| 25. The treatment of the prisoners was considered _____ by human rights organizations. |
| 26. The executive's interview shed light on the company's future plans.                |
| 27. The fashion show featured outfits that caught everyone's attention.                |
| 28. Her dedication to the cause _____ her commitment to making a difference.           |
| 29. The actress's _____ allowed her to portray a wide range of characters.             |
| 30. The company developed a plan to expand its operations globally.                    |

## Answer

**Multiple Choice:** 1. Assault 2. Controversial 3. Destruction 4. Engagement 5. Versatility 6. Obituary  
7. Provocative 8. Captivated 9. Compensatory 10. Strategic

**Gap-Fill:** 11. Allegations 12. Brevity 13. Chemistry 14. Luminary 15. Monetizing 16. Navigating 17. Plea  
18. Substantive 19. Terrorized 20. Transform

**Matching sentence:** 1. Controversy 2. Incident 3. Prevailing 4. Embattled 5. Inhumane 6. Candid 7. Jazzy  
8. Epitomizes



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9. Versatility 10. Strategic

## **CATEGORY**

1. Entertainment - LEVEL6

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