

Vanessa Williams: Readers "bare" opinions

By Donna McCown Kirby

This week's issue of TV GUIDE carries two articles on former Miss America, Vanessa Williams. The first article uses Williams' experience as a basis for a commentary on "the hypocrisy of the American people," while the second briefly discusses her upcoming guest-starring role on NBC's new series "Partners in Crime."

It appears that Williams and her activities are still a subject of much debate. UNCA students, asked to comment on the issue, responded with the following:

Dale Medford (sophomore): "Most contestants are models and earn their living that way. How they pose is their own business. I never heard of any rule that says Miss America can't pose in the nude."

Leigh Hill (junior): "She was railroaded! It wasn't fair of them to condemn her for something

that happened before she was Miss America. Certainly, the timing of the publication of those pictures was a play for money, but I think they used bad judgement.

John Downes (freshman): I don't think she would have gotten an appearance on that new TV series without all the notoriety. She's a lot better off now than she was. In the long run, losing the Miss America crown won't hurt her.

"Burt Reynolds did it. Being nude never hurt an actress, and that's what she wants to be. Besides, the pictures weren't that good."

Chris Jolley (senior): "I don't think it hurts the integrity of the crown. She was just modeling, and I don't think that's immoral—besides, she did it before she was Miss America."

"I think if they want to prohibit their contestants from posing nude, they should ask before the contest—not after."

"I think it reflected well on her that she gave it up when they asked for the crown rather than fighting it."

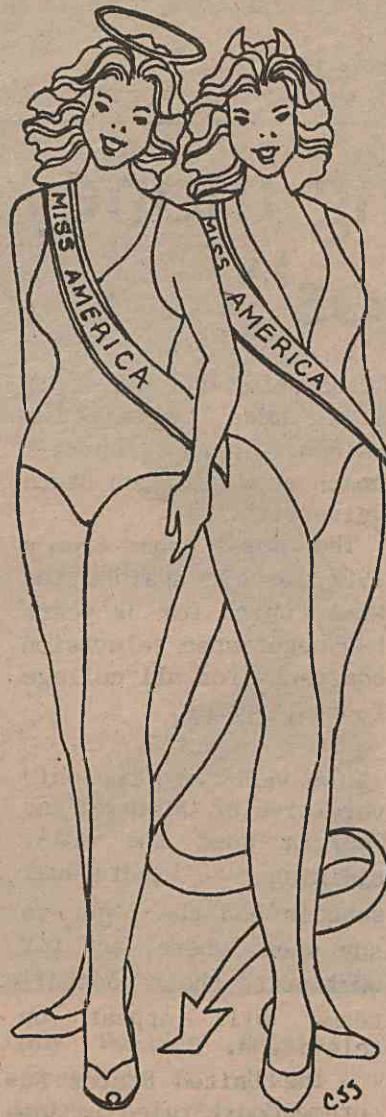
"Funny—that's the only article with a photo spread that I've read all of."

Sabrina D. Williams (senior): "I'm in the middle, but I lean toward agreeing with the pageant officials. She does represent America in other places. If she's going to have that position, she shouldn't do things like that. She put the pageant in a bad position."

"I don't think it was right for her to have such a picture made. Since she allowed them to be made, what happened was something she did to herself. Her past was personal, but your past will catch up with you."

"Still, I admire her guts to stand up under everything that happened to her because of it."

Johnny Poplin (senior): "I think it's her business and nobody else's!"



Elize Bass (junior): "I feel angry! She trusted that photographer! I feel like grabbing that guy and shaking him! I think we've all done things that we wouldn't want

publicized. We just have to trust those close to us not to betray us."

"That photographer did it for profit, and so did the magazine. What they did was more wrong than what she did. What she did didn't hurt anybody. What they did hurt her. It might even hurt the other girl in the picture in the future."

"I think that giving up the crown should've been optional. After all, the photographer chose the poses—not her. I don't think they should have wiped her out that way. That was a bit too much."

"I don't think the past should affect today."

Sara Orozco (senior): "She sure made a bare entrance! It's fast publicity, but not the best way."

"Personally, I don't think she should have lost the crown because of it. I suppose the image could be changed by letting her keep it. But, I don't think any Miss America is all that innocent."

No doubt, there are many other opinions on this subject around campus; this gives an idea of what some of them are.

Miss Asheville studying at UNCA



Miss Asheville 1984, Christina Wilson

By Darryl Gosnell

"It's a dream. I have to be dreaming," repeated UNCA student Christina Wilson after winning the Miss Asheville pageant this past August.

At age 18, Wilson, the first Miss Asheville to attend UNCA, became the youngest recipient of the crown awarded annually at the Asheville Jaycee Women sponsored pageant.

The green-eyed blonde set reasonable goals going into the pageant. "I hoped I would place going into the finals. I had done well in the preliminaries, but I had no idea I would win. I was really shocked," said Wilson.

What made her enter this pageant?

"I entered because it would be a growing experience," explains Wilson. "I really had fun in the other pageant so I thought I would try it again."

This pageant offered another challenge, tal-

ent. The Teen All-American Pageant winner was chosen completely on

beauty. I felt I could do equally as well in a pageant with a talent competition," said Wilson.

"Being able to share my love for music with others was just great," she continued. "Of course, winning was an added pleasure."

Wilson stays busy with personal appearances. Maggie Lauterer interviewed Miss Asheville on First Edition, a local news program. She has been making guest appearances at parades and fund-raisers, too.

Wilson is pursuing a degree in International Business at UNCA. She also holds a job at The Limited in the Asheville Mall.

Why International Business? "I love to travel. I have been to Europe four times and to the Bahamas twice. I love learning about other

cultures because my family is originally from West Germany and that type of thing really interests me," Wilson said.

"In the long run, I would like to be able to combine my career and my hobby," she said.

Looking ahead to the state pageant to be held in Raleigh the third weekend in June, Wilson said, "Consistency in dress and an overall balance will be the main areas of concentration for me."

"I want to be well-rounded, with no weakness in any phase of competition. The judges look for the All-American look, and that is the look I hope to convey," she said.

"Although I want to do well, the main objective during my reign will be to represent Asheville to the best of my ability," Wilson said.