

Poetry Corner

By Jane Penn

I Search No More

As I walked along one day
I thought and thought while on my way,
I thought of how I lived in sin.
I thought of how I searched for Christ
He bled, he died, he paid the price.
I searched so long, but not anymore
For he was knocking at my heart's door.
I search no more, I search no more
I'll get my wings, to Heaven I'll soar.

Sandra Potter

Excursion

ocean deep clouds
sail great wings north
out of Mexico
over deserts and mountains

trail moisture, not just dropping
rain, but drawing up rock

into their winds, sun
beats those bars as on blades

they crash on Tucson without
declaring war, all those swift riders
generals on grey horses.

trees
that prayed desert prayers
for decades merciless under sun
fall under sudden blasts
trunks
wind-ripped naked of branches
eucalyptus limbs white as anglos
pile against chainlink fence

roofs, too, and powerlines, they say, i
saw that eucalyptus stripped to bone, that
rainborne helicopter blade
change into grey horses mounted by iron wind
trampling down limbs

some hero wants to chase Pancho Villa
from his stone in a Tucson Park

gringo better watch those Mexican clouds
some guerrillas don't die easy

Will Inman

"Shadow"

No place to go
All locked up inside
Want to come out
But, I am afraid
Where would I go
Who will unlock
My deepest within
And understand?

Claudine Robinson

"May I Come In?"

I look to the left
I look to the right
There is no one there
I look again
But, this time
I look to the front
I look to the back
No one is there
I walk with my head down
A tear in my heart
A question in my mind
Saying within
Is anyone there
As I wonder to and fro
Hoping someone will show up
Then I hear a knock
Again, again, again
Wondering should I open up
Sitting quietly
Afraid to move
Wondering if someone is really there
Finally move
I open up the door
And HE was standing there
HE said
I am here
You're not alone
I've been here all the time
So please
MAY I COME IN?

Claudine Robinson

"Gossipers"

You can't stop people from talking, But you can live above
what they say.

Jayne Penne'

Send your poems to Poetry Corner, P.O. Box 3154, Winston-Salem, N.C., 27102. We are not responsible for returning submissions, and, because of the volume of mail received, there may be some delay in your poems appearing.

Vanessa: This society's ethics violated you

From Page B4

honor women and children but in reality denies them basic human needs. In this, the richest country in the world, one in every four children is poor. Seventy-five percent of all black children under the age of six live in poverty. Children are poor when their mothers are poor. While women are underpaid and can't find job training or safe, affordable day care, they are promised money and career advancement if they take off their clothes for the sexual entertainment of men. Men can also learn a powerful lesson from your experience. Over 20 million American men of all persuasions support an industry that

victimizes their sisters, wives and daughters. These men are victims too. They are coaxed to feel comfortable sneaking away for impersonal and often dangerous erotic gratification rather than to feel comfortable communicating their sexual desires to people they love.

Your tragedy also points to how calculating and uncaring people can be when their sole motivation is profit. It showed us just how ruthless business is when the veneer is stripped away. The fact that it took 63 years for a black woman to be named Miss America unmasks a racial bias that we should find more offen-

sive morally than any transgression on your part. Isn't it interesting, Vanessa, that in this country nudity is a disgrace and racism isn't? Perhaps more than anything, your painful experience taught us all a great lesson: Every step of the way we must consider each decision we make and what its consequences could be. You inadvertently forced our daughters to see the truth we've been trying to share: For women, this is a very dangerous society. One that is obsessed with and exploits female sexuality. But we can change that by taking a stand. We can begin sensitizing people to how pornography

damages women and exploits men's fear of real intimacy.

Vanessa, you've been challenged in ways that few ever are. And you've stood strong. Bold. You're a survivor. As you move on with your life, know that as your family supports you so do millions of people, many of whom have reached out to *Essence* with letters and phone calls in their efforts to comfort you and your family during your time of crisis.

We were filled with love for you when you became our first Miss America. Even though you've relinquished the title, for us you'll always wear the crown.

Ask Yolonda

From Page B4

A Cap and Gown, But No Diploma

Dear Yolonda: I'm a young lady of 19, and I have a big problem.

I'm an '83 graduate of a local high school, or so everyone thinks. I participated in the graduation ceremony with my classmates. I wore a cap and gown, and I walked across the stage.

I also received a piece of paper that looked like a rolled-up diploma, but I didn't receive my diploma because I was short several credits. The principal there allowed me to participate in the ceremony for the sake of my family.

I now work at the local telephone company but I can't seem to live down the fact that I don't have my piece of paper. I

recently received a memo from employee relations stating that they wanted to see my diploma. I have been avoiding answering the memo because I don't know what to tell them. When I applied for the job, I lied and told them that I was a high school grad. Please tell me what to do.

Charlotte

Dear Charlotte: First, contact your former high school counselor and find out what classes you need to make up, then simply resolve to do whatever it takes to fulfill those requirements.

Meanwhile, if your employment office contacts you again, you have no choice but to go in and explain what happened. You might tell them that you had an

incomplete to make up, and it slipped your mind until now. Generally speaking, if you're doing a decent job otherwise, employers normally give you a little time to correct this sort of problem.

A Reply Worth Considering

Dear Yolonda: I would like to comment on the letter from the husband who felt that his wife had abandoned her marriage and her family for the sake of her religion. She was a born-again Christian. He said that his wife was not happy because he was not born again.

Unfortunately, too many do-gooders (like yourself) go out of their way to keep couples together, even if one of the par-

ties is miserable and unhappy. Maybe the best thing that could happen for them would be for them to split up. Then she could find someone else who is born again, like herself. I know this because I went through this with my ex-wife. Now she's happy, and so am I.

Everett

Dear Everett: You may have felt that I was trying to be a do-gooder, but several other readers wrote in to tell me that I should have advised that husband to try his wife's religion. At any rate, thanks for giving us your inside opinion.

Got a problem or a gripe? Ask Yolonda Gayles, P.O. Box 19112, Chicago, Ill., 60619.

BRAVO! NIKK CARABELL

THIS HAIR STYLE IS NOT ME.



IT LOOKS NICE TO ME.



BUT I THINK I SHOULD OF GOT A REVCO CURLY KIT.



"IT'S SURE NICE OF YOU TO VISIT ME, DUKE"

STARSCOPE

by Clare Annsell

WEEK OF: AUGUST 23, 1984

AQUARIUS — January 21-February 19
Brainstorming sessions bring out bright business ideas. Domestic dilemma benefits from objective opinions. Key this weekend is recognize and exploit your unique gifts and talents.

PISCES — February 20-March 20
Pace quickens through the week; you're accomplishing a great deal at home and at the workplace. Neighborhood quarrels come to a happy conclusion thanks to your ingenuity.

ARIES — March 21-April 20
Cynical individuals should be avoided wherever possible; spend much more time with kinder, supportive people. Week is generally favorable for trading ideas and for pooling resources.

TAURUS — April 21-May 22
Energy level peaks; look for a new and worthy goal on which to focus attention. Avoid taking risks—in money matters especially. You and partner see eye-to-eye on a family issue.

GEMINI — May 23-June 21
You and partner may be on slightly different wavelengths, and the key is to maintain a good sense of humor. Creative pastimes lead to making important contacts. Festive event is announced now.

CANCER — June 22-July 22
New beginnings are accepted. Perhaps a new relationship is launched during this period. Relative is surprisingly critical. Financial arrangements dominate your time after the weekend.

LEO — July 23-August 22
Friend needs your support—but also some breathing space. Home situation improves by the weekend. Loved one receives an award of sorts. Your congratulations mean a great deal.
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VIRGO — August 23-September 22
You enjoy special rapport with a senior colleague or older relative. Late-summer travel has an educational angle. Hunches are generally strong from Monday on.

LIBRA — September 23-October 22
Unexpected expenses may cause you to postpone the purchase of a luxury item. Unusual messages arrive by the weekend; spend time deciphering them. A new look is accented after Monday.

SCORPIO — October 23-November 21
Don't stand on ceremony in friendship matters; make the next move as your heart dictates. Financial judgment is sharp. Small and unusual acquisitions are spotlighted on the weekend.

SAGITTARIUS — November 22-December 22
Someone may win compliments for work that you've done; correct the situation promptly. Romantic hints that you've been dropping are finally picked up by the weekend.

CAPRICORN — December 23-January 20
Education is highlighted, with the overlapping theme of travel. Watch tendency to search out flaws in people. Relative is generous; be sure to acknowledge her kindness.

BIRTHDAY THIS WEEK
You analyze situations carefully and are critical of even minor flaws. Logic is your middle name. Recently established relationship grows gradually over the next months. Financial ups and downs are seen early in '85, but you can respond admirably to any challenges at this time.

BORN THIS WEEK
August 23rd, dancer Gene Kelly; 24th, actor Dennis James; 25th, actor Sean Connery; 26th, composer Boris Obromov; 27th, actress Martha Raye; 28th, actress Nancy Kulp; 29th, singer Michael Jackson.

WORDS & MEANINGS

Unmix the letters in the boxes to form a word. Then circle A, B or C for the correct meaning (or definition). Score yourself as follows: 4 Correct-Excellent 2 Correct-Fair 3 Correct-Good 1-0 Correct-Poor

1. **ORTT**

A SWIM B JOG C HAP
Clue: A good way to keep fit, but watch those leg muscles!

2. **TIARA**

A PLYER B HAT C LASSO
Clue: A cowboy's tool

3. **TACIVY**

A HOLE B BUMP C SCRATCH
Clue: Brush and floss to prevent these in teeth

4. **NATYDYS**

A COAST B RANCH C EMPIRE
Clue: A popular TV show of a rich family's life

ANSWERS: 1. TROT 2. RANCH 3. BRUSH 4. EMPIRE

FINDIT!

A lot of words come to mind when you hear the word "water." Find 18 of them. Words run across, down or diagonally in any direction. Word list below.

R D D D O O L F
P A R E U L B O
U M I S O A K A
D P P N T R F M
D O A H B U L A
L R T E W O O E
E D E C I P W T
K N I R D E W S

Word list: Bath, blue, damp, dew, drip, drink, drop, foam, flow, flood, ice, pour, puddle, rainbow, soak, steam, tap, wet.

By Cory