The Chronicle, Thursday, August 23 1984-Page B5

# **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

#### Incursin

## oceandeep 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

# 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 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

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 that we should find more offen \_ people to how nornography us you'll always wear the crown.

## Ask Yolonda

## 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

From Page B4

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 ties is miserable and unhappy. 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 dogooders (like yourself) go out of their way to keep couples together, even if one of the parMaybe 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 dogooder, 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.

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** 

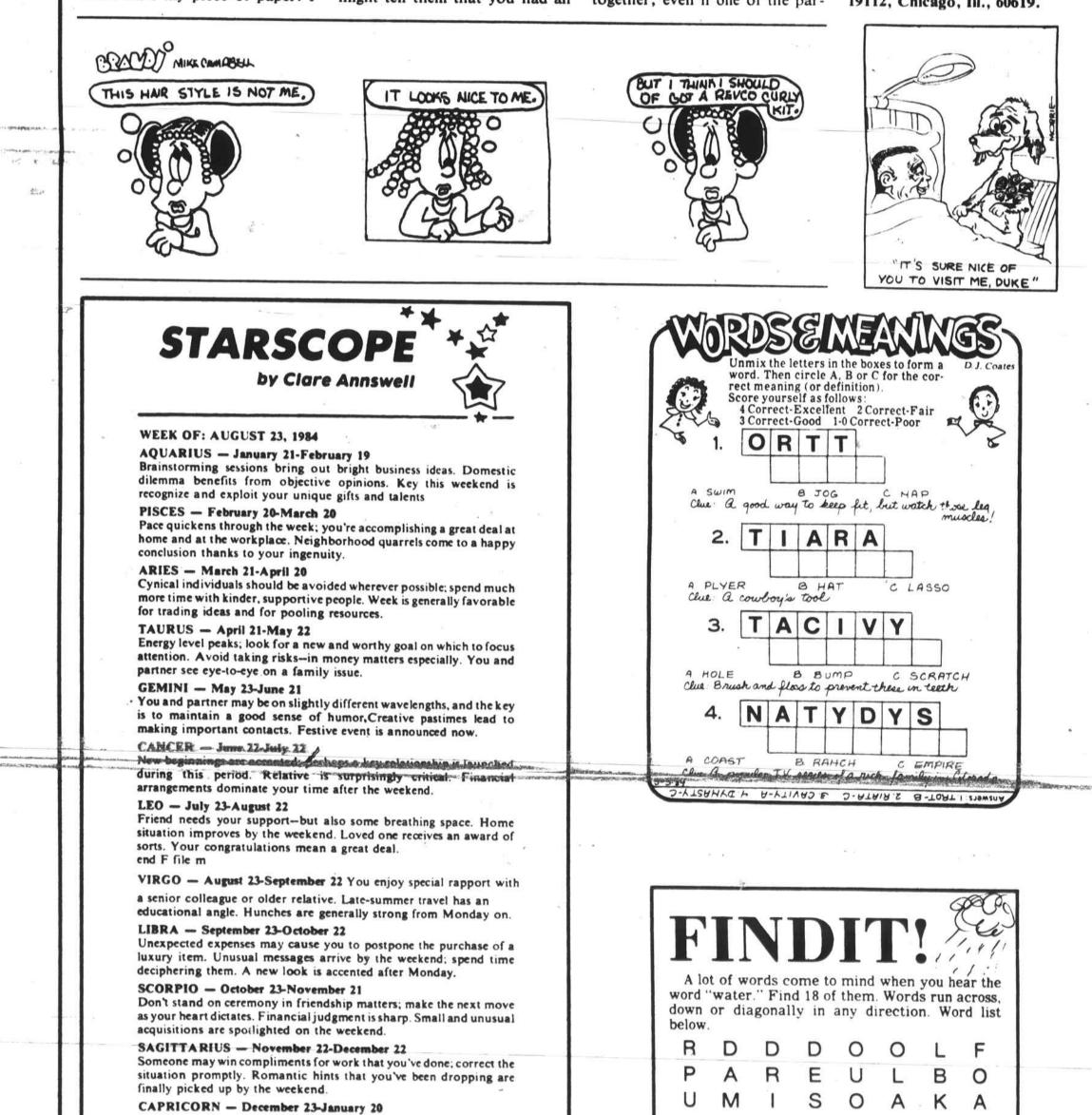
### "May I Come In?"

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?

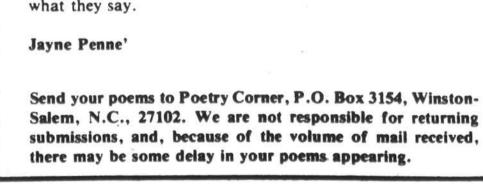
## **Claudine Robinson**

#### "Gossipers"

You can't stop people from talking, But you can live above



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.

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

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