

EDITORIALS & COMMENTS

A Tarnished Miss America!

Vanessa Williams, the first black woman to be crowned "Miss America," has added to that distinct honor another "first," the relinquishing of the same crown at the request of pageant officials due to a scandal over nude and sexually explicit poses with another woman that suggested lesbianism. The photos appear in PENTHOUSE magazine's September issue which went on sale last Sunday.

Ms. Williams, a Millwood, New York, native and a Syracuse University student, said the photos were taken by her photographer employer Tom Chiapel in July, 1982 - 15 months before winning the "Miss America" crown in September, 1983.

The nation's former "Miss America" said, rather pathetically, that she never "consented to the publication or use of the photographs in any manner." She added that the photographer told her she "could not be recognized" in the "silhouette" photos and that her sexually explicit posing "would be completely in confidence, so I agreed."

After viewing the photos in the magazine Ms. Williams reportedly said she "was shocked, surprised and deeply hurt, as I am sure many American people were... (and) was enraged and... felt a deep sense of personal embarrassment."

Pageant officials said that during Ms. Williams' 10 month reign she fulfilled all the duties and responsibilities of her position in "an exemplary fashion" but had to resign for the sake of prestige and reputation of the "Miss America Pageant."

The whole sordid affair appears to be characteristic of our nation's values and philosophy. A young woman abandoning her sense of personal decency in a quest to advance herself, an unsuccessful photographer evicted from his modeling studio for failing to pay \$1,600 in back rent who seized an opportunity for some degree of

fame and fortune, a vast reading public with a strong desire for a sexually erotic fantasy of their own at the expense of someone else's reputation, and a publishing company willing to exploit any situation to earn a tarnished profit.

Having said all this, we must hastily add that we have no sympathy for Ms. Williams. With a demonstrated reputation as one of the most intelligent young women to have even been named "Miss America," we have to conclude that she knew the degrading nature of the photos she posed for and certainly should have fully understood the nature and meaning of the agreement she signed with the photographer. Furthermore, Ms. Williams never kept good faith with the "Miss America Pageant" because of her personal awareness of the photos she posed for whether they had been published or not.

Ironically, while Ms. Williams' shining star has been tarnished, numerous movie actresses, singers and other female celebrity personalities resort to many sexually explicit behavior patterns for which they are never admonished and are in fact highly rewarded because they respond to the sexually explicit erotic fantasies of many Americans.

In retrospect, the best that could be said by Ms. Williams can be borrowed from the eloquent speech-sermon by Jesse Jackson at the Democratic National Convention when he said in part, "If in my low moments, in... deed or... taste or tone, I have caused anyone discomfort, created pain... that was not my truest self. Please forgive me. Charge it to the head and not to my heart."

And for the new "Miss America," Suzette Charles, also black, we feel a bit teary-eyed because her two months of glory and fame had to emerge from the ashes of another.

Seed Faith And Miracles

Oral and Richard Roberts were in town Sunday in one of their series of weekend crusades that they have been conducting across the nation since March of this year.

Preaching under the theme: "Expect A Miracle," some 7,000 people attended the single service. The specific subject of the older and younger Roberts was "Seed Faith."

The Roberts said, just as a farmer sows his best corn, so should a Christian give his money to do God's work. Just as the good corn reaps a bountiful harvest, money can reap miracles, Oral Roberts said.

No, you can't buy healing, God cannot be bought, Richard Roberts said, yet he continued, "...when people begin giving to God, it opens them up for miracles. It puts you in a position to receive miracles." Then, in an eloquent manner the evangelist said, "When I have a need, I plant a seed." This preceded the receiving of an offering and the prayer service.

In Oral Roberts' now famous healing services, the audience was to touch the part of their bodies that was ailing and pray to God to be healed. In bringing the two

issues together, Oral Roberts said, "...people are seed faithing and God is performing miracles."

On the mystery of miracles, the Rev. Ross Rhoads said, "There are probably few things about religion... that cause more quandaries, speculation and outright skepticism than do miracle claims."

It is for this reason the evangelist Oral Roberts and others like him who tell people to "expect a miracle" are viewed with skepticism.

Therefore, there are three things about miracles we think are worthy of noting. First, it takes considerable courage, or better, faith for a preacher to state that God has ordained him as a conduit through which people may be healed. Secondly, Jesus Christ performed many miracles while on earth at which time people were equally skeptical.

Finally, the Bible says faith (miracles) is the evidence of things hoped for, the belief in things not seen, and that if people possessed faith just the size of a small mustard seed they could do wonders.

From Capitol Hill

No Timetables Compliance For Enforcement

By Alfreda Madison
Special To The Post

The Reagan Administration besides being negligent in enforcing civil rights measures, its policy has been to effect numerous compromises - most of which have the tendency to stall or set back civil rights gains. The Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs (OFCCP) of the Labor Department is a prime example of the Administration's civil rights reversals.

Executive Order 11246 requires that federal contractors and sub-contractors and federally assisted contractors agree not to discriminate in employment. They must take affirmative action to promote equal opportunity for minorities and women.

OFCCP has substituted for enforcement a National Self Reporting System (NSNRS) program, "strongly suggests that the Department waives much of its authority and compliance prerogatives, in exchange for reports by corporations which are of little or no utility from an enforcement perspective," said Representative Augustus Hawkins, Chairman of the House Education and Labor subcommittee on Employment Opportunity.

Senator Glenn, testifying before the committee, stated that affirmative action has been a very important tool in battling discrimination in employment and he deplored the corporation self monitoring system instituted by the Reagan Administration.

Glenn said from 1974 to 1980 minority employment grew 20 percent among those doing business with the federal government as contrasted to only a 12 percent growth among companies not co-



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operated by affirmative action. Women employment in companies doing business with the federal government grew from 2.2 percent to 15.3 percent. The Senator stated that women and minorities employed by companies under affirmative action experienced greater upward mobility, than they did in the employment of companies not under affirmative action. These facts were reported by the New York Times, from a Labor Department Study. Senator Glenn presented several exchanges of bipartisan letters between the senators and OFCCP from August 1983 until the present, requesting a copy of the study, but of no avail. Chairman Hawkins has experienced the same run-around in his request for a copy of the study.

Susan Meisinger of OFCCP is defending the Administration's policies, promised both Senator Glenn and Mr. Hawkins a copy of the study. Ms. Meisinger admitted that these compliance agreements which have been substituted for affirmative action enforcement were established by the corporations doing

IT IS UP TO US TO IMPOSE ORDER—NOW

ARE WE GOING TO SIT AND LET BLACK COMMUNITIES CRUMBLE AROUND US? GRASS ROOTS AND COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS, MUST EMERGE, TO FORGE A UNITED EFFORT AGAINST CRIME, NARCOTIC TRAFFICKING, BLIGHT AND DECAY.

Big Blue And The Future?

Is International Business Machines Corp. too big? Two years ago the question was answered "no" after the Justice Department dropped its 13-year-old antitrust suit against IBM. Today the answer is not so concrete.

As the industry restructures, the European community has begun to pursue its own antitrust case: thus causing the Justice Department to begin a routine investigation of possible anti-competitive effects of a settlement IBM reached last year with Hitachi Ltd., its Japanese rival.

Regardless of how the antitrust proceedings come out, experts believe the information process industry needs to consider three basic and fundamental questions concerning IBM, its size and power. (1) Could IBM with its low-cost manufacturing, marketing and research crush its smaller competitors and bring innovation to a turtle pace? (2) Could the U.S. lose its technological leadership in this area by relying too heavily on a slow, complacent IBM to set the standard? (3) Could dominant IBM become too slow or complacent to set and maintain the pace of technical

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innovations needed in the lucrative industry?

Ironically, few competitors are openly worried about the questions. In fact today IBM is more apt to be praised than criticized, even by its major competitors. Competitors view IBM as being creative and more aggressive than in the past. Industry watchers believe that today's competition is still strong and lively enough that IBM will have to remain sharp and innovative to retain dominance. It is also believed that IBM stimulated more growth in other companies than it stifles.

Many industry experts view IBM as America's strongest defense in the battle against Japan. The common cry is do something to IBM and all computers will become Japanese

radios. Some doubts and fears do exist under the upbeat and positive feelings on IBM. People in the industry are praying that IBM remains a benevolent dictator; however, where power exists the possibility of abuse exists.

Customers too feel threatened, when they cannot find an adequate alternative to IBM what will they do? Many feel IBM does need more fierce competition even though it dominates the market. John R. Opel, IBM chairman and CEO views the company as being \$40 billion in revenues within a market place of \$150 billion to \$240 billion worth of business. Thus meaning there is \$195 billion of success for others in the market place.

Whether or not Opel is right is a question answered only by purchasers of computer systems and experts in the industry. IBM's size and strength are truly assets today - but who knows about tomorrow or 10 years down the road? The industry must remain vigilant that the computer giant does not abuse its power or potential.

Big blue is representative of the future. Her continued growth will inspire others to become more competitive on the one hand. On the other her continued growth may cut potential competitors in the bud of their lives and intimidate others from joining the market. Another point of view to consider is the fact that if the information processing industry remains primarily in the United States, Japanese competitors face a taller wall in trying to penetrate the American market. Big blue will remain the prime force and determining force in the industry. Just how things will turn out - no one really knows - one can merely speculate.

employment opportunity among companies doing business with the government. He emphasized that the Reagan voluntary plan is designed to lessen the effectiveness of Executive Order 11246, as a weapon in our arsenal against discrimination.

Ellis said voluntarism was not a new concept. It has been tried and failed. Even contractors who had a non-discriminatory policy showed indifference or ignorance of the pledge. He said Congress, recognizing the failure of voluntarism, set up a federal regulations plan of affirmative action which requires goals and timetables.

Acting Director of OFCCP Meisinger, upon questioning, noted that this Administration's plans call for no goals or timetable and there is no enforcement method for non-discrimination in awarding government contracts to corporations doing business with the government.

Yet, President Reagan, in addressing a group of minority businesses, stated that he is all for minorities receiving government contracts. Is it that he does not know what OFCCP is doing, doesn't care, or was he just jesting?

Mortgage Insurance Break Records

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development reported that the volume of primary insurance written on newly originated 1-4 family conventional mortgage loans surged to nearly \$6.6 billion in May, surpassing the previous month's record high of over \$600 million. The results were released

in the latest survey of private insurance activity for conventional mortgage loans and for privately insured pass-through securities.

The May volume was 106 percent greater than the \$2.9 billion level of activity in May 1983, and 17 percent higher than the previous record of \$5.1 billion registered in April 1984.

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Published Every
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Publishing Company, Inc.
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Charlotte, N.C. 28203
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