

Tamara Houston
....Accomplished pianist

## Tamara Houston Plays Piano, Sings

By Jalyne Strong Post Staff Writer

Talent is one of the miracles of life that is never quite understood. We only know when it manifests itself it is quite beautiful to behold. And when it is nurtured and developed it is boundless.

When Tamara Houston was five years old and inquisitive about the piano in her home, her mother encouraged her to play. It was soon seen that the child had talent for the instrument and her mother realized that it was now her responsibility to help sustain her daughter's musical capability.

"I really started enjoying my lessons when I was eight years old," the young pianist recalls. Tamara's first lessons were given by her mother, Nadine Houston, a piano instructor. "When I was 12 I gave a complete piano recital by myself," Tamara relates.

Today, the talent Tamara's parents saw in their daughter is maturing. Tamara not only plays the piano, she also plays the flute in her school, Carmel Junior High's, band, she is mastering the synthesizer and she sings.

And the achievements are piling up. Each year Tamara participates in at least two recitals. She plays for her church, New Bethlehem FBH, every Sunday. She has won certificates in the National Audition, for which she had to play 12-14 memorized pieces judged on interpretation, dynamics and style. Tamara has been featured in the Omega Talent Hunt. And she was inducted into the Honor's Course for N.C. for having the highest score of any alto in the state.

Tamara plays gospel, classical and contemporary compositions. She prefers gospel. "It allows me to create sounds, as opposed to classical music which is played by reading it as it is. I like to do what I want with music," she explains.

There are times when this young lady has felt that her talent has stood in the way of her being a typical kid. But the sacrifice hasn't been that great. "I feel that it gives me something to do with my life," she tells. "I do have other things I enjoy." Tamara's other interests all lie in the realm of creativity. She prefers to spend her spare time enjoying art, reading and writing.

And if having musical prowess was not enough, Tamara is also

was not enough, Tamara is also academically gifted. A member of ther school's Honor Society, she is also a member of the Beta Club into which she was voted by a teacher

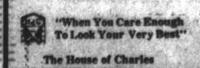
## Trichology Corner



Mr. Charles, R.B.

QUESTION: I asked my stylist to use a relaxer on my hair and they refused, I feel I should get the relaxer I want to put in.

ANSWER: Of all the hundreds of products on the market it is unlikely that any stylist has tested all of them. Stylists stand behind their work and they really do have more knowledge of the hair and which cosmetics will work and it is not fair to demand that they use something they may be unsure of.



## Young, gifted and black

based on her sportsmanship, behavior and scholarship. Tamara's currently taking three academically gifted elasses in Language Arts, Geometry and Social Studies and she's a member of the Executive Council at Carmel Junior High.

"I keep my grades up," tells Tamara, "because I, one day, hope to make a lot of money so I'll be able to afford my own studio with all types of instruments." Tamara especially would like to have another synthesizer "to create different sounds" and she still wants to master another instrument, the saxophone. In her studio, Tamara aspires to record her own gospel album and she wants to teach music

others.

For now, she's looking forward to having another solo recital. Her teacher today is Clara Jones and Tamara claim's she's an admirable instructor. "When she plays she really puts herself into it. She plays with feeling, not mechanically." Tamara describes.

This young, gifted pianist relates. "I really enjoy having these talents. I know I take them for granted in a sense. But I'm happy to have something through which I can express myself in a different way."

Saying that she feels she's now ready to take on students, Tamara comments, "I want to encourage anyone who would like to take music to do so. So many people regret not doing so later. And if you are already taking music, stick with it. You'll always be happy you did."

## Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Presents 29th Annual Ebony Fashion Fair

The 29th Annual EBONY Fashion Fair will appear in Charlotte at Ovens Auditorium on Sunday, November 2, at 6 p.m. This famed traveling fashion show is produced by EBONY magazine and is sponsored by the local chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. for the benefit of local charities, community services, and scholarships

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Mrs. Eunice W. Johnson, producer and director of the show, is meticulous and thorough in purchasing the most spectacular fashions available for EBONY Fashion Fair audiences. She personally selects fashions from the exclusive collections of famed designers such as Halston, Stephen Burrows, Bill Blass, Christian Dior, Uves St. Laurent, Andre Laug, Valentino, Tita Rossi and Missoni.

More than 200 exquisite garments complete with the latest accessories. 10 female and two male models. commentator, music director, stage and business managers and wardrobe staff travel from coast to coast on a special chartered Greyhound Bus. Because of the unprecedented demand for sponsorship of the show by charitable organizations around the country, EBONY Fashion Fair now tours two seasons - the East and Midwest from September through December and the Southwest from January through May - appearing in more than 177 cities.

As an added feature to this evening of entertainment American Airlines, through its representative, Ms. Claudette Murphy, will present to the lucky ticket holder, two "free tickets" for travel to any chosen city in the U.S.

formance, indicates ticket sales are going exceptionally well and expects an even larger attendance than last year. Tickets may be purchased at

chairperson of the benefit per-



downtown Belk stores, Petites Women's Fashion, 1018 N. Tryon St., or by calling Mrs. Mary Streater at 399-8416. General Admission tickets are \$17 and Reserve seats are \$20.



SURGEON GENERAL'S WARNING: Smoking By Pregnant Women May Result in Fetal Injury, Premature Birth, And Low Birth Weight.