

## SOCIAL NEWS with A TOUCH OF "GRACE"



by Grace McGlothen

### Musicians Convention Comes to Vegas

The 65th annual convention of the National Association of Negro Musicians will be held Aug. 5 thru Aug. 10 at the Union Plaza Hotel. Hundreds of delegates and members will join the assemblage. The National president is Betty Jackson King.

The Las Vegas community is invited to attend the welcoming ceremonies which will be held at Zion Methodist Church, 2108 Revere St., on Sunday, Aug. 5 at 3 p.m. All musicians, professionals and amateurs, are urged to attend; non-musicians are also invited.

A special audition for gifted youth (ages 10 thru 17) will be held in the Nucleus Plaza, Heritage Hall on Saturday, July 28 from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Singers, dancers, instrumentalists and choirs are invited. There will be performances at the convention by age group in various categories. It is important for participants to attend the audition on July 28. The best performers will perform during the convention as follows:

Ages 10 years thru 16 years will perform in the Junior Matinee on Wednesday, Aug. 8 at 3:30 p.m. Youth performers ages 17-25 will perform on Tuesday, Aug. 7 at 8 p.m. Youngsters over age 25 will perform on Wednesday, Aug. 8 at 8 p.m. at the Union Plaza Hotel.

The National Association of Negro Musicians, Inc. had its beginning in Washington, D.C.

on May 3, 1919. This organization is supported by people of cultural ideals and music groups of high standard. In NANM, educators and professional musicians share their musical knowledge, amateurs and enthusiasts grow in their musical enjoyment and people of all ages come together to participate in the total experience that is music.

### Deepest Sympathy

We want to express our deepest sympathy to Sarann Knight-Predy and family for the loss of her father who died at the good age of 85. He has fought the good fight, finished his course and now may he rest in peace.

### NSA YWD Summer Festival Rainbow Coalition Exemplified

On last Sunday afternoon hundreds of members and friends of NSA (Nicheren Shoshu Academy) Buddhist religion motored to the Pacific Palisades High School sports arena to attend the Young Women's Division Summer Sports Festival which was one of the most colorful events I have ever witnessed. Hundreds of young women from San Francisco, Los Angeles, Las Vegas, San Diego, and Arizona met at the arena to participate in the summer festival. This group of young people was com-

prised of women of all ages, colors, and cultures. It was a day of unity for all in attendance. This event reminds me of the Rev. Jesse Jackson's Rainbow Coalition in action.

The festival started with a black torch runner carrying the lighted torch around the field followed by the hundreds of YWD territory marchers of all races, dressed in colorful uniforms, who lined up on the field after drilling in unison. The National Anthem was led by a black young woman followed by the welcoming speech and the sportsmanship pledge.

Musical performers were as follows: Los Angeles Kotekitai Instruments rendering "Somewhere Over the Rainbow," "Colonel Bogey" and "Olympia Theme"; Los Angeles Kotekitai Tall and Short Flag dancers doing "Break Dancing"; Malibu Chorus rendering "Hello Family" and "21st Century of Hope"; San Francisco YWD Tall Flag, Short Flags and Gymnasts doing "Raiders of the Lost Ark"; Los Angeles Drill Dance interpreting "Flashdance"; Las Vegas and Arizona Kotekitai dancing to "Keem-o-sabe"; and Los Angeles Drill Dance interpreting "Olympia."

After the intermission the Los Angeles Brass Band played "Entry to Olympia" and the Los Angeles Men's Division band played "Big Band Medley" and "America."

The colorful sports events began with the YWD Exercise drill followed by the 100-yard run by age groups, the 440-yard run, and obstacle course. Games of Champions included the 3-legged race, centiped race, water balloon toss, and the donut eating race. Then there was the tug o' war with 75 YWD per territory which was most exciting. The sports events concluded with the relay races.

NSA YWD Chief, Margaret Inoashi gave closing remarks followed by the presentation of awards and guidance remarks by NSA General Director Mr. George Williams. Final song was "Forever Sensei."

### Controversy over nude photo

## Williams Steps Down As Miss America

NEW YORK — Vanessa Williams gave up her Miss America crown Monday — after a controversy over nude photographs of her published in *Penthouse* magazine — so that she can pursue an entertainment career rather than wage "a bitter fight."

The 21-year-old beauty — the first black woman to hold the title and the first Miss America to lose her crown — wore a blue dress, a lavender scarf and a string of pearls as she told a packed Manhattan news conference she never agreed to have the pictures published.

She said she did not realize how explicit they were until she saw them in the magazine.

Williams, of Millwood, N.Y., the first black Miss America, said she wanted to keep her title but "the potential harm to the pageant, and the deep division that a bitter fight may cause, has convinced me that I must relinquish my title."

"It would be difficult for me to make an ap-

pearance as Miss America."

But, she said, "I am a fighter. I will fight for what I believe is right."

"It is not my desire to injure in any way the Miss America title or pageant," she added, and asked "sponsors and the public... to continue all their support" of the event.

Suzette Charles, 21, of Mays Landing, N.J., the first runner-up at last September's pageant,

will become the 58th Miss America. "I'm excited," she said upon learning of Williams' decision. "It's unfortunate it had to be under these circumstances."

"We will move on and we will try to uplift the image of Miss America," said Charles.

Albert Marks, Jr., pageant executive director, said pageant officials "regret that circumstances... have

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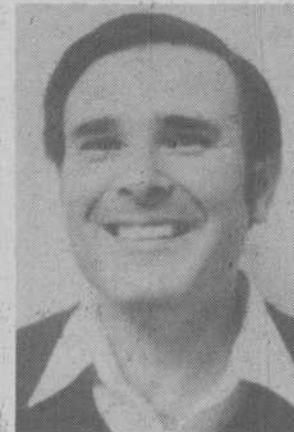
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