WILLS-

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gram was halted.

She has appeared in a number of movies and hit television shows and numerous stage productions before she accepted the role of Dr. Nicholson.

"I see K.C. as someone not very far from my own personality," she admits. "K.C. wants to help people. She cares about them and she's there for them. I've always been involved in service for people and when you think about it, entertainment is a form of service, too. I love K.C. and I hope the audiences will, too."

A single mother, she is raising two beautiful young girls from her liaison with Philip Michael Thomas, of "Miami Vice." She recently bought her first home and Philip visits as often as he can, she says. "We are very good friends. He lives in Miami and we live in Los Angeles, so he doesn't get to see the girsl as much as he would like."

Sheila and her family were living in Watts when the 1965 fierce riots destroyed people's lives and made headlines across the country.

"We were living at 47th Street and Broadway in what they called Charcoal Alley Number Three," she recalls. "When teh National Guard came in we could hear the gunfire and we were all on the floor crawling around. It was very scary. It was a frightening time.

"I understand why a lot of people don't get out of poverty because it is so powerful. But my mind was stronger. I always had a vision of what I wanted to do and I was always very interested in school

"The teachers knew I was motivated, knew I was not lazy and they supported me, encouraged me. I've had a job since I was 11 years old. I've cleaned houses, cleaned beauty salons and, as a kid, I would knock on doors and ask to go grocery shopping for people because I knew they would give me a tip for that."

She always turned the money over to her family because that was the thing to do — help out.

And now she's helping out in a reality drama that will humanize doctors and those who work in the medical professions. Dr. K.C. Nicholson is always on call!

ROWE

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to the music of a composition of the immortal Duke Ellington, was scheduled to open an all inclusive tour of Europe in Russia last week. The show is set to play most of the Kremlin's major cities. Then on to Paris, Buenos Aires, Australia, Singapore, Hong Kong, Japan, Mexico City then home to Los Angeles followed by a B'way revival sometime late in '89 . . . The Alfred P. Sloan Foundation has awarded

The Alfred P. Sloan Foundation has awarded Duke University \$1.8 million to fuel its graduate fellowships for minority students in public management . . .

N.C. A&T State Univ. received 150 G's for program and curricular development . . . 93-yr old Paul Bass is quoted as having the time of his life as the guest of star Nell Carter's "Ain't Misbehavin" cast. His action in his younger days inspired the late Fats Waller to pen

MELBA MOORE HAS A SWEET OBSESSION

Superstar Melba Moore, who has achieved fame in every aspect of entertainment and opened doors for artists such as Freddie Jackson, has proven again that sie has a golden ear with a new group — Sweet Obsession.

Melba saw the talented sisters (Keena, Kimmala, and Michelle Green) from Detroit while hosting the Ohio Valley Music Awards. After seeing their sizzling performance, Melba invited them to meet with the high power Hush Productions management firm in New York. Although the music awards were supposed to be the girls' last venture in the music business, they jumped at the chance to meet with the management firm that molded Melba Moore's as well as Freddie Jackson's

Sweet Obsession's first single, ''I'm Gonna Get Over You,'' from their self-titled debut album, is rapidly rising

the tune around which the hit B'way was conceived Lionel Hampton has been designated to receive the initial Duke -The Shepherd Award later this month. It is named for the "I Love You Madly" genius and Pastor John Garcia Gensel of the Jazz Ministry. Program ex-pectants are Bobby Short, Honi Coles, Milt Hinton and the Hamp's ork you make it to Manhattan, check out Ruby Dee, Paul Winfield and Danzel Washington in "Checkmates." The show will add to your . . STAY LOOSE! pride Billy Rowe is a syndicated columnist



WINNER OF THE COBRA LADY SWEEPSTAKES -- Cynthia Hearn, 22, receives her cash prize from Al Cummings, senior brand manager, King Cobra Premium Malt Liquor, after being declared the winner of the 1988 Cobra Sweepstakes. Hearn outpointed four other contestants in a nationwide telephone poll during which voters called a toll-free number to express their choice as winner. As winner of the Cobra Lady Sweepstakes, Hearn will represent King Cobra in brand-sponsored events.



Melba Moore with Sweet Obsession

up the music charts. Their impending success has garnered them a song in Tri-

star picture's winter release, "Iron Eagle II," starring Lou Gossett Jr., as well as joining

Freddie Jackson's USA tour as the opening act.

