

Young artists create flags

By Jacquie Long
Of the Emerald

Picasso once said that children are the best artists of all. And a look at the new flags flying outside the University Child Care Center might show he was right.

Designs for two of the three flags, chosen from almost 30 drawings, are the creations of some of the University's youngest artists now in attendance at the child care center.

Graham Findley IV, 5, Marisa Thompson, 4, and David Blasher, 4, drew the pictures, which were then applied on brightly colored nylon. A third flag was designed by an older child who is not from the center.

The flags are each done in a primary color — red, blue and yellow — and will be used to teach the children about color and form, says Dennis Reynolds, who is in charge of the toddlers at the center.

Reynolds said the flags will be used several other ways as learning tools.

"We put a lot of emphasis on process here and try to teach the kids about the steps of doing things," he says. "The flags will be used as part of our curriculum and will be hanging inside when they're not on the flagpole. We'll show the kids how an original design can be replicated in another, completely different form," he adds.

The yellow flag, showing the beginning of the alphabet, was designed by Marisa. When asked about it, however, she shyly denies having drawn the original.

The blue flag is a combination of three drawings. It portrays a mermaid, a turtle and a lion, drawn by both David and Graham. "David saw 'Splash' (the movie) the week before he drew this," Reynolds says.

The red flag, called the "birthday banner," is of carousel horses and has silver spangles sewn on. Reynolds says this flag will be flown on birthdays and special occasions.

"I wish we could fly the flags all the time, ... but I'm afraid they'd end up on some stu-



Photo by Paul Ertelt

Marisa Thompson and Graham Findley IV helped design the flags that now fly from the child care center tower.

dent's apartment wall," he says.

When they are up, the flags will be on the flagpole of the climbing structure in the playground area outside the child care center at 1511 Moss St.

"When the structure was built about five years ago, we wanted a flag to fly here," Reynolds says. "Now we finally have some."

The flags were sewn by Mia Arends, a graduate student in art, who works at the EMU Craft Center. Funds from the EMU Cultural Forum's art budget were used to pay for the flags.

Resignation angers many

By Mike Sims
Of the Emerald

The first Miss America to be asked to relinquish her crown has done so, and with the reason for her resignation now selling well on the nation's newsstands, the controversy has drawn various reactions.

Vanessa Williams, Miss America 1984, was asked to resign when Penthouse magazine announced that nude photographs of Williams would appear in its September issue. Williams, the first black woman to hold the title, announced her resignation at a press conference Monday in New York City.

Mavis Mate, University Women's Studies Council chair, asserted that Williams has been treated unfairly in two ways. "First, the magazine has violated her privacy by publishing the pictures," Mate said. "Second, I think the (pageant officials) overreacted to the whole matter. One would think that the officials would join in condemning the magazine and not the woman herself."

Mate said that she would be encouraged by a boycott of Penthouse. "That's the only way you can get through to them that this sort of behavior is unacceptable," she said. "Money talks, it seems."

"It's sad that in the need to sell magazines, one would react with this sort of journalism."

Ed Coleman, associate professor of English specializing in black literature and history, voiced a harsher indictment of the magazine.

"I think that the photographer (Tom Chiapel) and Bob Guccione (Penthouse publisher) are absolute slimeballs for their timing," Coleman said. "(They) were interested only in getting more Oregon Daily Emerald

money than they would have received had the pictures been published after September. Those photos shouldn't have been published without Vanessa's consent."

The possibility of racism influencing Penthouse's action didn't escape Coleman. "Guccione knew Vanessa was the first black to hold the title and was, I think, totally insensitive to the racial implications of printing the photos."

Coleman voiced regret for Williams, saying, "I know people do things in their youth that they wouldn't do normally." He also expressed sympathy for the pain Williams feels over an incident that, in Coleman's words, "may have ruined her life."

First runner-up Suzette Charles of New Jersey, who took the oath as Miss America after Williams' resignation, is also black. Coleman acknowledged that Charles' assumption of the title would "take some of the sting out" of the Williams resignation but not all. "It just won't be the same ... the damage has been done. And I think many blacks will feel betrayed that Vanessa has allowed herself to be used like this."

Coleman also said that there would be some racial repercussions on the part of whites as a result of the resignation. "Those who didn't want to see a black woman as Miss America in the first place can sit back and say, 'You see! ...'"

Steve Phillips, executive director for the Miss Oregon Pageant, said that Miss America pageant officials were correct in asking for Williams' resignation. He also expressed dissatisfaction with media coverage of the Penthouse con-

trovery. "We work so hard to publicize the Miss Oregon Pageant, with little result," Phillips said. "Then this thing comes along with front page headlines."

The 1985 Miss Oregon Pageant was held July 14 in Seaside. Renee Louise Bagley of West Linn, a junior at Portland State University, became the first black woman to hold the Miss Oregon title.

The September issue of Penthouse features Williams (fully clothed) and actor George Burns on its cover, under the caption "Miss America: Oh God, She's Nude!" Sales of the magazine were reported to be brisk at several Eugene-area stores, one claiming it sold 25 of its 80 available copies within two hours after the magazine was placed on the newsstand.

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