

Singer / Actress Admits That Posing for Nude Pictures Was 'Dumb'

"Adversity makes one a much stronger person," remarked Vanessa Williams, the first black Miss America, who said she was hurt by the reaction of African-Americans to her winning the title.

"I was thrust into the impossible task of being a spokesperson for African-Americans," Williams said in an interview to be published this Sunday in Parade magazine. "And it hurt when the press picked apart my opinions and suggested that the only reason I won was because my light skin and green eyes made me a safe choice to white America. It also hurt that many African-Americans didn't think



Vanessa Williams

I was black enough and therefore not representative. All combined,

it was an awful lot for a young girl to handle."

The objections occurred even before Williams was forced to relinquish her title due to a scandal over nude photographs of her with another woman, which were published without her consent. Asked what she had been thinking when she posed for the photographs, Williams replied, "If only I had been thinking. But I wasn't, and that's the curse of the young. I also was rebellious where convention was concerned and incredibly gullible. When you're young, you do dumb things. But I do not feel what I did was morally wrong."

New Portland Cafe Exhibits Outsider Art

The Ego, Hunger, and Aggression Cafe will feature the latest works by Outsider Artist MOMO at 3401 S.E. Belmont Street in Portland from June 2 through July 1.

An artist's reception will be held from 6-8 p.m. on First Thursday, June 6.

Called "an inspiration" by City Lights publisher and painter Lawrence Ferlinghetti (San Francisco), and "a mad genius" by noted poet and scholar Jack Hirschman, Momo infuses bright, childlike drawings and

paintings with philosophy, politics, and Pop, mostly in found media. His style recalls American artist Philip Guston, the COBRA (Copenhagen/Brussels/Amsterdam) expressionists (1950-1980), and "Unmade Bed," the mad monk-artist of Korea.

Momo has sold more than 400 works of art since he began painting, drawing, and assembling his pieces seven years ago, at age 40. Momo collections hang in private homes and cafes in Portland, San Francisco, New York, Philadelphia, London,

Dublin, and West Germany. Momo's cartoons appear in books and publications that include Northwest Comic News and Austin, Texas-based Art-Core Magazine.

The Ego, Hunger, and Aggression Cafe is located amidst galleries and dance clubs on Belmont and 34th. Owners Gordon Zenk and Dennis Brand chose its name from one father-of-Gestalt Fritz Perls' most important books. Its menu features breakfasts, salads, sandwiches, and a wide range of coffees and refreshments.

Oregon Arts Commission Calls For Proposals

The Oregon Arts Commission is conducting a call to artists to submit proposals of public art at Oregon State University - West International House and West Dining, University of Oregon, Student Family Housing, Public Employees' Retirement System Building, and the Capital Center.

Visual artists, artist teams and craftspeople, both emerging and established, working in all media are

eligible and encouraged to apply. Proposals will be reviewed by an independent selection committee composed of the project architect, visual arts professionals and agency and community representatives.

Artists who wish to be considered for the opportunities must fill out a complete application, which may be obtained from the commission of downloaded from the world wide web home page, <http://www.das.state.or.us/OAC/percent.htm>. Specific questions may be addressed to Ellen Flacker at (503) 986-0085 or e-mail at Ellen.Flacker@state.or.us. Deadlines are Friday, June 28 for the capital center project; Friday, July 12 for Oregon State University; Wednesday, July 17 for the University of Oregon and Wednesday, July 31 for the Public Employee's Retirement System Building.

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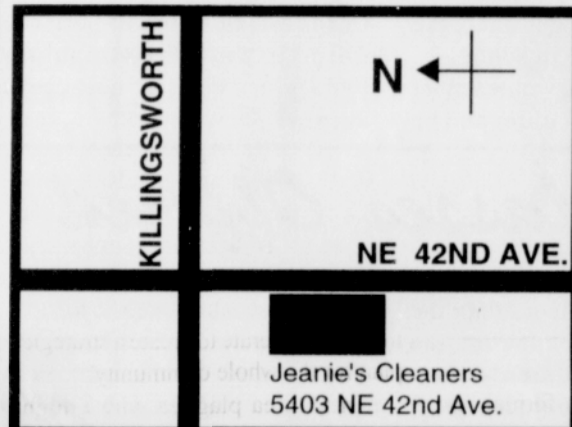
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