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Vanessa Gets Hollywood Star

(AP) -- Many predicted Vanessa Williams would fade into obscurity when she gave up her Miss America crown because of a scandal over nude photographs, but her star shone brightly last week.

Williams received the 2,331st star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. Fellow cast members from the TV show "Ugly Betty," in which she plays a villainous magazine editor, showed up to cheer for her at the ceremony in front of the Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel.

"We were so happy to get Vanessa," said Salma Hayek, the show's executive producer. "She is brilliant because she is so nasty on the show, but in reality she is the sweetest person."

Williams stepped down as the first black Miss America in 1984 after Penthouse magazine published nude, sexually explicit photographs of her taken several years earlier. In the years since, she has sung on Broadway, released Grammy-nominated albums and acted on screens both big and small.



Vanessa Williams gets her star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.



The Portland-based rock group Kandles at Nine.

Local Musicians Advance

A Portland-based rock group has been named a finalist in the Music Nation competition, an online music video competition that will ultimately give three artists (one in each genre of rock, pop and urban) recording contracts with Epic Records.

Kandles at Nine was chosen by the public and a panel of industry and celebrity judges.

The winner will now advance to the Music Nation quarterfinals beginning on April 23 where they will face off against other weekly winners.

Life and Times of Famed Producer

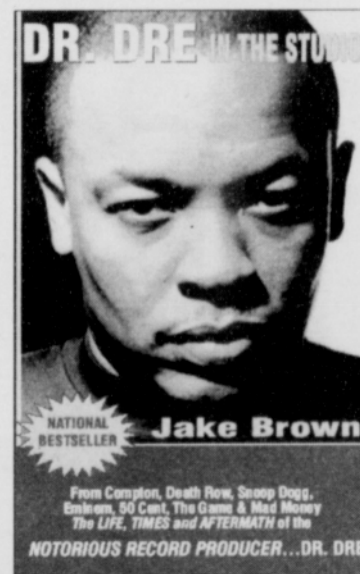
Author Jake Brown's latest rap biography follows performer and superproducer Dr. Dre, chronicling his work behind the scenes and his production techniques with "Dr. Dre: In the Studio."

In his latest work, Brown, already the author of several hip hop biographies ("50 Cent: No Holds Barred," "Ready to Die: The Story of Biggie Smalls - Notorious BIG"), sets out to focus on Dre's life and times as a long time industry trend setter.

He focuses exclusively on the godfather of hip hop's production and craft, covering everything from his first experiences with music and his humble beginnings as a young deejay, to his life as one hip hop's top producers.

Readers will also get an in-depth look at Dre's relationships with The World Class Wrecking Crew, N.W.A., Suge Knight, Snoop Dogg, Eminem and others.

Around the same time of publication, Dre recently revealed details on



Dr. Dre in the Studio

his next album "Detox."

"I'm trying to get everybody that I've ever worked with over the years to appear on the record," Dre said. "Trust me, this will be worth the wait -- I'm trying to make this the one they remember me for."