

# Miss America gives up title at official request

By RICK HAMPSON  
Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK — Miss America 1984, Vanessa Williams, gave up her title yesterday at pageant officials' request because she had posed nude for sexually explicit photos with another woman. She became the first of 57 Miss Americas to be forced to resign.

Williams, 21, 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 is apparent to me that because of all that has happened during the past week, it would be difficult for me to make an appearance as Miss America," she said at a news conference.

"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.

Albert Marks, pageant executive director, said pageant officials "regret that circumstances . . . have caused Miss Williams to relinquish her title." In a statement issued in Atlantic City, N.J., he said she had "fulfilled all of the duties and responsibilities of her position in exemplary fashion."

Suzette Charles 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



Vanessa Williams and her mother, Helen

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.

Williams said she would devote herself to her career. She had reported receiving offers for various show business projects.

As the painted portrait of Williams that had hung in pageant offices was taken down, Marks said no deal was struck with Williams to get her to resign.

Bob Guccione, publisher of Penthouse, which published the photos this month, said "I think it's a mistake that she elected not to fight to keep her crown. I think the pageant is getting away with something, which I think is very unfortunate."

Williams said she did not recall signing any form approving release or general distribution of the photos. Asked about that, Guccione said, "Obviously she did consent because she signed a model release, which is a de facto consent for the photos to

be published."

Meanwhile, lines formed and telephones rang at newsstands across the country as customers clamored for copies of Penthouse's September issue, featuring pictures of Williams taken in 1982 by a photographer in the Mount Kisco, N.Y., studio where she worked for one summer.

The photographer, Tom Chiapel, has not been available for comment since Penthouse's publishing plans were disclosed on Thursday.

At the news conference, Williams

reiterated that she does not recall signing a model release form. At any rate, she said, the photographer assured her the photos would show her only in an unrecognizable black-and-white silhouette and they were not for distribution.

Williams' legal adviser, Dennis Dowdell, said Williams would not answer any questions. He would not say if any legal action is planned against Penthouse.

Roy Grutman, the magazine's lawyer, said he would not show its copy of the release form to Williams

or her lawyers voluntarily.

"If she wants to see it, let her say that in a lawsuit," Grutman said.

Pageant promoters said the photographs, published in September's Penthouse, violated her contractual obligations. One deals with morals, and is believed to cover past conduct, the other with upholding the pageant's image.

In an interview Sunday with The Associated Press, Williams termed publication of the photos "a violation of my rights."

## Guccione says Penthouse not responsible

By RICHARD T. PIENCIAK  
Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK — Penthouse Publisher Bob Guccione said yesterday he is sorry that Vanessa Williams has resigned as Miss America but doesn't feel he's to blame even though his magazine published nude photos of the former beauty queen.

"I don't feel that I'm responsible for it," Guccione said in an interview with The Associated Press moments after Miss Williams became the first Miss America to prematurely retire her crown. "As far as I'm concerned, my obligation was to my readers. This was an interesting bit of highly newsworthy information and photographs."

Guccione said he "feels sorry for anything that happens" to Miss Williams, "but if I had to do it over again, of course, I would."

An offer to help Miss Williams financially if she chooses to take legal action against the Miss America Pageant still stands, Guccione said, as well as his offer to provide her employment.

"If she wants to come to work for us she's hired tomorrow — or today. And if she wants to bring an action against the pageant if she has second thoughts

about it, we stand ready to finance that action fully."

"I think it's a mistake that she elected not to fight to keep her crown," said Guccione. "I do think she's letting the pageant off a little too easily."

Guccione said that while Miss Williams may not remember signing a standard model release form, his lawyers have paperwork authorizing publication of the photos that appear in the September issue of Penthouse, the magazine's 15th anniversary edition.

"She should remember, and I'm sure in her heart she does remember, that she signed the release. This is not the sort of thing that a girl does every day," he said in his midtown townhouse.

"We, of course, have a release, absolutely authenticated by handwriting experts who have compared the signature on the release to other documents we have bearing her signature. So we're satisfied that we have every legal right to publish the pictures," said Guccione.

Miss Williams signed two release forms, according to Guccione. "One is a model release form, which anticipates publication and gives all rights in the photographs to the photographer to do with what he will."

# One killed, scores injured in Amtrak passenger train crash

By MARJORIE ANDERS  
Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK — Two Amtrak passenger trains collided head-on and derailed on an elevated track yesterday after the Boston-bound Zip failed to wait for the southbound Shoreliner to pass on a stretch of track under repair, officials said. One person was killed and scores were hurt.

It was the fourth fatal accident this month involving an Amtrak train.

Rescuers said they treated 112 people, most for minor injuries, after the collision in the New York City borough of Queens. An Amtrak official said the Zip had failed to wait for the Shoreliner to pass.

"I first thought we were braking, and then in less than a second, the seats were uprooted and people were thrown out of their seats," said Ernest Boyer, 33, who was traveling on the Washington-to-Boston Zip. "A lot of people were screaming. People were lying on the floor, saying, 'Let's try to get out.'"

Some people were "covered with blood, some with gashes," Boyer said.

The trains in yesterday morning's crash collided on an approach to the Hell Gate Bridge, just across the East River from Manhattan at about 110th Street. All Amtrak trains to and from New England use the route.

Amtrak spokesman Clifford Black said the southbound track on

the line was closed for regular maintenance, and The Shoreliner, coming in from Boston, had received written instructions to use the northbound track.

"Whether it was dispatcher failure, an engineer failure or a signal failure we do not know at this point," he said. "The northbound train was to have held for the southbound train. That did not happen."

Ambulances rushed the injured to hospitals, including five people who were seriously hurt, said Ellen Weiman, spokeswoman for the Emergency Medical Service.

The EMS treated 112 people in all, she said, including 72 who were taken to seven hospitals — 35 of

them by bus — and 40 who were treated at the scene. Those 40 and another 96 who said they were unhurt were taken to Pennsylvania Station.

Enrique Gilarranz, 53, identified as a Spanish diplomat from Madrid, died at 3:35 p.m. at Booth Memorial Medical Center of chest and abdominal injuries suffered in the crash, said hospital spokeswoman Nancy Simington.

Amtrak employee John Fitzpatrick, about 39, of New Haven, Conn., was in critical condition at Booth Memorial with internal injuries, Simington said.

The engineer on the Shoreliner, Bob Hurley, was admitted to a hospital with head injuries.

## Amtrak has 4 accidents this month

By The Associated Press

Yesterday's collision of two Amtrak trains in New York City was the fourth serious accident involving the national passenger system in July. Here is a list of recent incidents:

- Two people were killed on July 11 when Amtrak's Silver Star hit a tanker truck at a grade crossing in McBee, S.C. The train's engineer and the truck driver were killed.

- Five people were killed and 137 were injured on July 7 when nine cars of the Montrealer derailed at Williston, Vt.

- Two people sitting in a truck were killed on July 4 when the

parked truck was hit by an Amtrak train in Elgin, S.C.

- A woman and her three children were killed on May 4 when their car crashed through a railroad crossing on a hit and Amtrak train in El Monte, Calif.

- Amtrak's Empire Builder hit a gravel truck near Bainville, Mont., on March 15, killing the truck driver.

- Four passengers were killed Nov. 12, 1983 when the Amtrak Eagle derailed near Marshall, Texas.

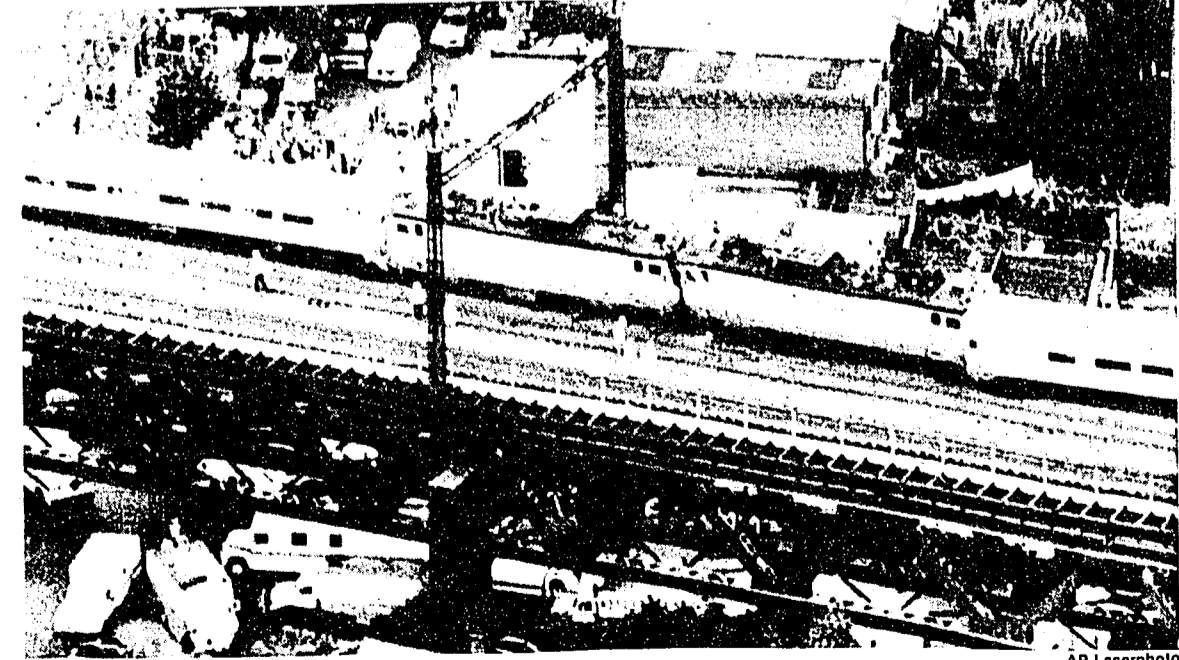
The worst accident involving Amtrak, which began operations May 1, 1971, occurred on June 10, 1971, near Salem, Ill. Eleven people were killed.



Photo by Bill Cramer

## Wagon trails

Kathleen Murphy, 16½ months, in front, and Kristen Palmgren, 20 months, take a break from the Discovery Day Care Center to enjoy the sun and take in the sights along the University mall from the comfort of a wagon being pulled by day care center employee Debbie Long yesterday.



Two engines from Amtrak's Zip and Shoreliner trains lay against each other after colliding yesterday on an elevated track in the Astoria section of New York's borough of Queens. The crash, the fourth this month, killed one passenger and injured scores of others.

## Israelis favor Labor Party

By MARCUS ELIASON  
Associated Press Writer

TEL AVIV, Israel — The Labor Party strengthened its lead over Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's conservative Likud bloc in incomplete returns from Monday's general elections, but both sought the first chance to form a new government.

Israel Radio said early today that with 87 percent of the votes counted, it appeared that Shimon Peres' Labor Party would have 45 seats in the 120-member Parliament and Likud 40.

But 61 seats are needed for a majority, and analysts predicted a lengthy stalemate in negotiations to organize a ruling coalition because of the record 15 parties that were expected to win seats.

There were calls for Shamir and Peres to join in a national unity administration to deal with Israel's severe economic problems and the issue of peace with the Arabs. Both expressed willingness, but Peres said such a

pact would have to be based on "an agreed program."

The nearly complete vote count and an exit poll organized for Israel Television by pollster Hanoach Smith indicated Labor would win more seats than Likud, but with neither of the major parties coming close to a majority.

The exit poll projected 45 or 46 seats for Labor and 42 for Likud.

In the outgoing Parliament, Likud held 46 seats to Labor's 50, while in the 1981 election Likud won 48 and Labor 47. Likud has ruled for seven years through alliances with smaller parties, and Shamir called the early election when four defections reduced the number of seats he could command to 60.

Twenty-six parties entered candidates, and several minor parties gained at the expense of the two main rivals. That posed enormous problems for either one to form a coalition.

Likud appeared to have the upper hand.

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### inside

- Salvadoran President Jose Napoleon Duarte charged yesterday that Nicaragua is supplying arms to leftist guerrillas fighting his government. Page 2
- Scott Bruce and the Comedy Company gave a free show at the HUB Fishbowl Sunday night to an appreciative audience. Page 10

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### weather

Partly sunny today with a scattered shower or thunderstorm possible this morning. High of 83. Mostly clear and cool to night. Low of 57. Partly to mostly sunny tomorrow with a high near 77. by Glenn Rolph