

# Vanessa Williams has 'the right stuff'

By Kelly Anders  
Staff Reporter

**Vanessa Williams**  
**The Right Stuff**  
Polygram Records

Once a beauty queen, now a Grammy nominee, Vanessa Williams has made quite an interesting and successful transition.

## album REVIEW

Her debut album, "The Right Stuff," is not the work of someone who's merely toying with the notion of becoming a recording star. It's the work of an artist.

The album starts with the title track, "The Right Stuff." The song, sporting a funky James Brown-sounding beginning, has a catchy and danceable beat.

Throughout the song Williams warns would-be suitors not to bother to try to win her affection unless they've got the "right stuff" (whatever that is).

This same song was nominated for a Grammy award for Best Rhythm and Blues Song by a Female Artist.

Up against Pebbles' "Girlfriend," Anita Baker's "Giving You the Best That I Got," Taylor Dayne's "I'll Always Love You" and Karyn White's "The Way You Love Me," Williams' chances of winning are questionable.

All of the songs nominated are good, but they vary so much in style that it's hard to judge them against each other.

Because of their differences, it's almost unfair to put them all together and decide which one's best. It's like putting Branford Marsalis, Luther

Vandross and L.L. Cool J in the same category and choosing a winner from those three very differently styled artists. They just don't mix. To speculate who will win is ridiculous. Let's just say that under these circumstances Williams has as much of a chance to win as anyone else. It's truly a subjective thing because there's no way to compare them.

Other tunes on the album are as good as, if not better than, the title track. Included are "Dreamin'," "(He's Got) The Look," "Am I Too Much?," and "Security."

"Dreamin'," a song about a woman's wonderful thoughts about the man she loves, has a soft and flowing feel to it -- like a dream. This

song displays Williams' talent better than any other cut on the album. High and low notes are hit with apparent ease.

The flirtatious quality of the recently released "(He's Got) The Look" is contradicted by Williams' low, mature-sounding voice.

But unlike many Madonna wannabe's on the market now that chirp and whine their lyrics like spoiled little girls, Williams sings like a woman.

"(He's Got) the Look," could have been sung with higher notes, but the low notes make it a little different. They make one take the lyrics and the chanteuse more seriously.

"Am I Too Much?," another fast track on the album, is a really sexy

song. Its daring lyrics are about a woman who's extremely sure of her attributes asking her man if he can handle her.

"Can you take the heat, boy? I wanna know...are you just a weak boy?" Williams purrs.

"Security," a mid-tempo song, has a beat that's relaxing. Although it's nothing new or innovative, it's so well-done and pleasant to listen to that it's well worth mentioning.

Whether Williams wins a Grammy for her efforts this time isn't important. Provided she sings like she does on this album, there'll be more nominations and eventual victories. She does indeed have the right stuff.

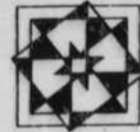
# Joslyn to show photo exhibition

"Photography," an exhibition showcasing Omaha photographers Jim Krantz, Lorrain Meares and William S. Sutton, opens Tuesday at the Joslyn Art Museum, 2200 Dodge St., Omaha.

A free opening night reception from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. will include refreshments and hors d'oeuvres.

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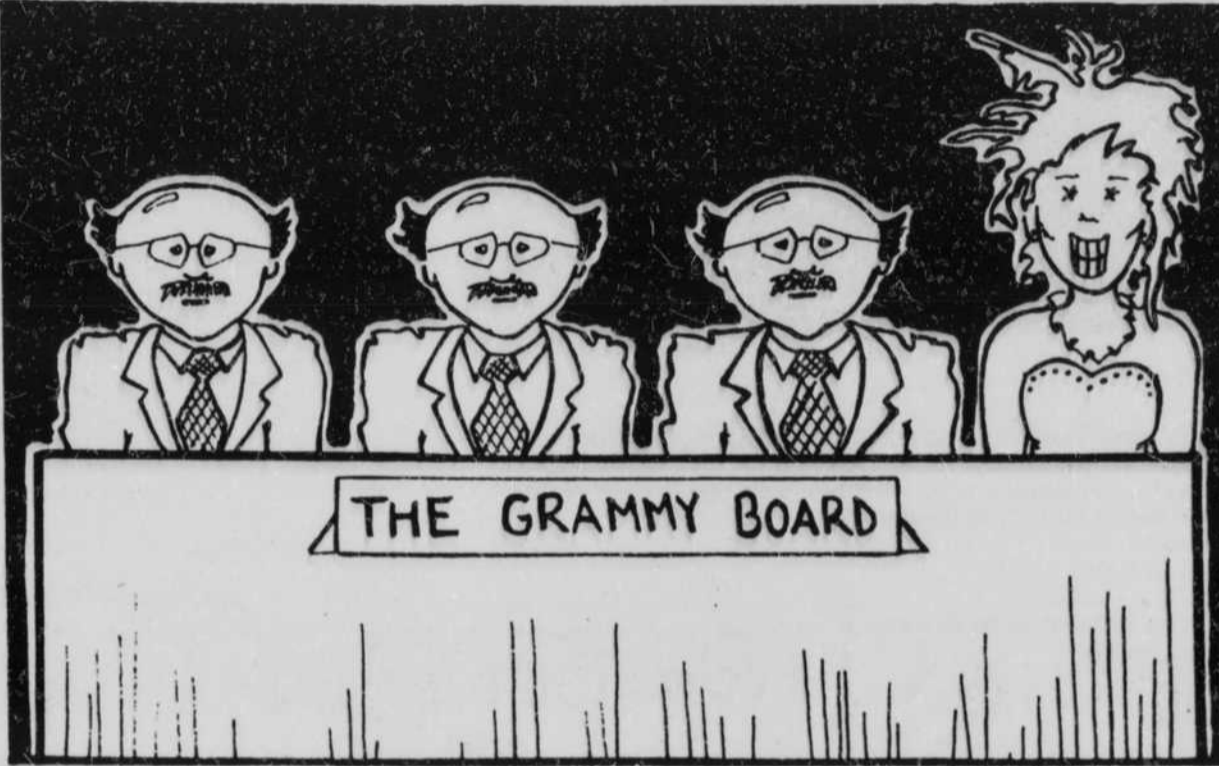


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samples (electronically reproduced sounds from a keyboard).

Richard Conratt writes the music for the band. Conratt is an 1985 graduate of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln with a bachelor's degree in psychology. He is also a former captain of the Nebraska swim team.

Vince McKinney, "Juice," produces the cash beats, or drum beats. He attends the University of Western Illinois on a football scholarship.

Klasy K said Juice works with the band when he is back in Lincoln for

vacation.

"We work pretty hard when he's back," he said.

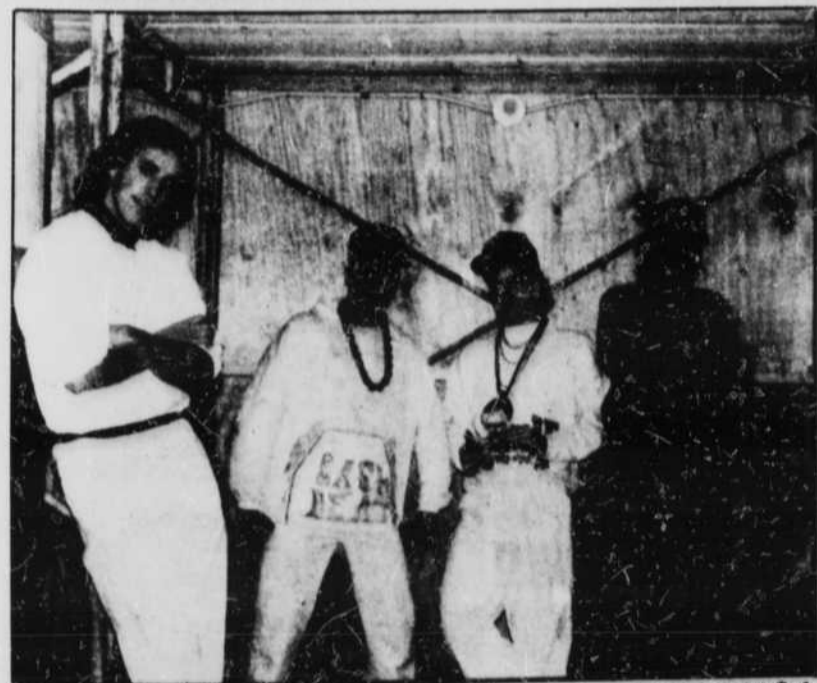
Conratt said the band first got together about a year ago. He said a mutual friend introduced him and Romeo to Klasy K and they started jamming together.

"They just had drum beats and scratches and I wrote the music to what they had," he said.

Conratt described their music as innovative rap.

"We're aggressive. We're happening. We're the difference be-

See IDEF on 8



From left: Richard Conratt, Vince McKinney, Grant Kauffman, Donnell Jones of Phi Delt.

# Warning can alert parents

CENSORSHIP from Page 6

there's no warning."

There are a number of reasons a warning might be included on a record, but most of them relate to sex and

bad language.

"Mostly, it's language -- they use the F-word a lot. The rap stuff is mostly sexual, while the hard rock and heavy metal tends to be objectionable because of language," Gilbertson said.

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