

Singer reveals 'naked truth' on teen sex

By ANNE WAITS
Staff Writer

Students, parents and youth leaders were exposed to "The Naked Truth" during an abstinence seminar at Strom Thurmond High School Saturday.

The seminar was sponsored by Heritage Community Services.

Workshops dealing with the consequences of premarital sex, media influences on sex in society, and abuse community drug issues, among others, were conducted.

Lakita Garth, former Miss Black America California, former runner-up to Miss Black America and energetic abstinence advocate, was the

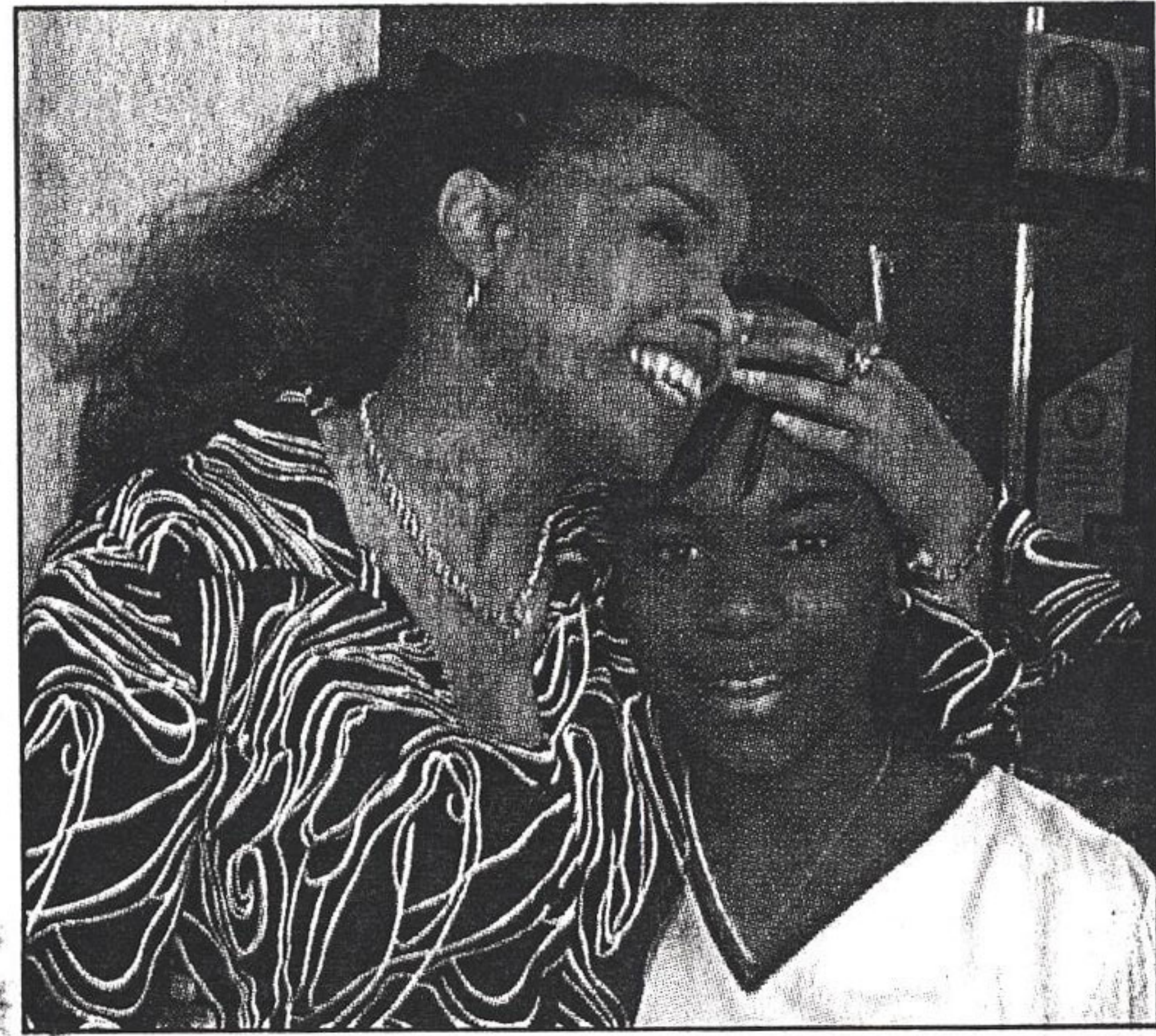
featured speaker. Garth has been profiled in many publications, including Vogue and Seventeen magazines, and is a recording artist and professional entertainer in Los Angeles. She has been featured on such television shows as MTV's Sex in The 90s, Politically Incorrect, Nightline, Sally Jesse Raphael and Montel Williams. She was a recipient of the National Patrick Henry Award, given only to persons under 30 for outstanding achievement in activism for youth.

"I made the decision when I was 11 years old to wait until I get married to have sex," Garth told her audience of about 150 people. "You have to begin with an end in mind."

She told teens they have to know their options and know their consequences.

"You will bear the consequences of all the choices you ever make in life," she said. "Option number 1 is to have sex and continue to have sex before marriage. Option number 2 is to wait until marriage to have sex. Some of the consequences of Option number 1 are pregnancy, STDs (sexually transmitted diseases) and emotional consequences. The consequence of Option number 2 is ridicule."

Garth continued, "There are two entities my grandma told me about — the truth and a



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Lakita Garth (left) hugs Stephanie Polk, a student at JET Middle School, during Saturday's family seminar.

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