

News Release

Miss Viet Nam TET Pageant of Northern California

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Beauty Queen Relinquish "Miss Viet Nam TET Pageant" Title

"Nude photos from two years ago surfaces"

San Jose – On Saturday, January 24, 2004, the Miss Viet Nam TET Pageant crowned Ms. Kim Tong, 21, as its seventeenth Miss Viet Nam of Northern California.

A week after her crowning, rumors of nude photos of Ms. Tong began to circulate. Shortly after, the organizers of the pageant convened a meeting and launched its own investigation and discovered the rumors had merit. With Ms. Tong's consent, a news conference was held on Friday, February 6, 2004.

During the news conference, Ms. Tong acknowledged that she did pose nude two years ago and deeply regrets doing so. She is most embarrassed for the unnecessary attention that has been brought to her family. She was unaware that the photos were being posted on the internet until it was brought to her attention by the pageant organizers. Ms. Tong has accepted full responsibility for the matter and extends her deepest apologies to her parents, the pageant organizers, and the Vietnamese community. In addition, she has relinquished her title as the 2004 "Miss Viet Nam of Northern California".

The pageant organizers deeply regret the unfortunate circumstances surrounding Ms. Tong. "Kim is a sweet young lady who cares deeply about her family, is considerate to her friends, and very passionate about life," said Ann Nguyen, the 2001 winner and Associate Producer of the pageant. "She recognizes that a misjudgment was made on her part, but now more than ever needs the support of the community to help her overcome the setbacks resulting from decisions made earlier in her life".

In light of Ms. Tong's resignation, the first runner-up, Ms. Anh Nguyet Hua, 21, from El Cerrito will be crowned the new queen on February 13, 2004 in San Jose.