

Beauty pageant losers have their own sorority

Carol Hochstein had been through the preliminaries. "Just eight cold faces staring at you and asking questions." She was on stage now with 89 other survivors of the Miss Michigan Universe Pageant, waiting.

"I didn't know if I would be more relieved if they called my name or if they didn't," she said. "I was wearing high stacked heels and my legs were shaking. What I wanted more than anything else was to sit down."

She did sit down, after the winner and the runners-up and the finalists had been chosen, and it was clear she hadn't won. Until that moment, it had only been a television program that she had experienced vicariously, but now she was one more survivor of the American beauty pageant system.

Carol was one of several Oakland County girls who nervously took a stab at the big prize which would lead to the Miss USA and eventually to the Miss Universe contest. She joined Nancy Abdo and Marilyn Ann Reese as the contingent from Farmington Hills. Kimberly K. Patterson of Southfield was also a contestant.

The winners in the event were April Patrick of Detroit; second-place winner Debra Burbridge of Detroit; second runner-up Gail Nagik of Sterling Heights; third runner-up Laura Jean Sylvester of Fraser; and fourth runner-up Michelle Ann Chapman of Ulia.

The fifteen finalists included Cynthia Ann Savage from Troy and Joyce

Rosalind Pemberton from Rochester. Girls from 41 Michigan cities participated in the pageant last week at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Dearborn. They were judged on poise, personality, beauty and appearance, but not on talent.

Carol Hochstein was a basketball nut until she moved to Harrison High School in Farmington Hills and discovered they didn't have a basketball team. After a year at Michigan State University, she entered modeling

school, which naturally led her into "thinking beauty pageant."

She enjoyed the four weeks of swimming, dining and dancing with the other contestants, but the moment of decision came on the Friday night before the big decision was made. That was the night she stood on the stage alone "with eight cold faces staring at me." It was the night they weeded out the finalists.

The girls say the decisions were made that night, but that they didn't

know the results until they were announced on stage when Miss Michigan Universe was crowned.

That's when the stacked heels started the legs trembling, and the losing was almost a relief.

For Nancy Abdo, a graduate of Farmington High School who is also a modeling student, the real problems were centered in the first letter of the alphabet.

"My name begins with A so I was number one on the list," she said. "When I went out on stage during the preliminaries, I was the first one of all the girls. The judges hadn't even got used to asking us questions yet."

Both Nancy and Carol are glad they made the attempt, even though they

didn't win, because it was an experience in which you learn a lot of lessons.

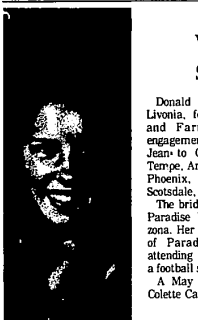
"I was so sure I would drop out before the end that I didn't buy my swimwear or my dress until the very day of the finals," Carol said. "My friends at modeling school talked me out of quitting. They said if I quit this, I'd quit something else later."

"Some of it was disappointing. We

weren't on stage that long during the final night. I went out in the middle of four girls and nobody could see me. We couldn't do any of the modeling turns we had learned, because not every girl had modeling experience.

"But I'm glad I did it. It helped me get over my nervousness, and the experience was worth it."

Just because you don't win, it doesn't mean you've lost.



Whinnery-Strickland

Donald and Carole Whinnery of Livonia, formerly of Phoenix, Ariz., and Farmington, announce the engagement of their daughter Brenda Jean to Gregory Lee Strickland of Tempe, Ariz., son of Ray Strickland of Phoenix, and Janice O'Donnell of Scottsdale, Ariz.

The bride-elect is a 1976 graduate of Paradise Valley High School in Arizona. Her fiancé, also a 1976 graduate of Paradise Valley, is presently attending Arizona State University on a football scholarship.

A May wedding is planned in St. Colette Catholic Church, Livonia.

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Detroit librarian tells retirement

After 40 years in library work, Clara S. Jones, director of the Detroit Public Library, will retire. Mrs. Jones will leave her office in mid-March though her official retirement date is June 1.

She has spent the last 34 years at the Detroit Public Library, the last eight as its director. When she was appointed to the directorship in February 1970, she became the first of her sex and race to head the institution and the first black person to head a major U.S. public library.

During her time in the position, she has continued to make "firsts" notably in 1976 when she was elected the first black president of the prestigious American Library Association, serving during its 101st year and presiding

over its annual conference in Detroit in June 1977.

Mrs. Jones's administration saw the library through a series of punishing budget and staff cuts in the early and middle 1970s. Only recently has the library returned to a more even keel, thanks primarily to the recognition and funding of the Main Library as a state resource.

Following her retirement, she and her husband Albert expect to move to California, where Mrs. Jones will pursue a lifelong ambition—writing.

A banquet honoring Mrs. Jones is planned for Friday, April 28 at the Engineering Society, sponsored by the Friends of the Library, the Library Staff Association and the Detroit Library Commission.

Hearing set on library meeting

A public hearing for the Oakland County library services set for 9 a.m. Saturday, April 8, at the Orchard Ridge Campus of Oakland Community College in building J.

The hearing is a prelude to a March 1979 statewide conference on libraries and information science and a White House conference to be held in the fall of 1979 in Washington, D.C.

For further information contact Douglas Z. Zyskowski, deputy city librarian for the Southfield Public Library, 26000 Evergreen in Southfield.

AJC travel program marks 20th year

Looking back on 20 years of a successful travel program, the American Jewish Congress is planning for the future.

According to Mrs. Ruth Rosenbaum, Michigan regional director, a "Singles Convention" to Israel is planned for this summer as well as a two-week tour regularly offered.

New this year is a program for married couples under 40, and special departures for the "mature" traveler. Also offered is a program called "Dis-

abled but Undaunted" for people with limited physical handicaps.

Europe, Africa and the Orient, Turkey and cruises of the Greek islands can be combined with a number of departures on tours to Israel.

Betty Adelson, director of the Overseas Program for the Congress will outline AJC travel programs at a meeting at 8 p.m. on Wednesday, March 8 at Temple Beth El in Birmingham. The public is invited. Reservations can be made by calling 357-2766.

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