



SHARON LEMIEUX/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Poetic Justice: Mary Pennington recently had two songs recorded by a Hollywood record company.

## Modeling contest finalist has ties to the community

Kortney Balhorn of Livonia, and formerly of Farmington Hills, has been selected as a regional finalist in Kid Search '93.

The modeling contest awards more than \$1 million in prizes including modeling contracts and college scholarships for newborns to 17-year-olds. Kid Search '93 is sponsored by Wilhelmina Models and J.C. Penney Portrait Studio.

Balhorn is the daughter of Kenneth and Sherry Balhorn. She's 3 years old and has recently moved to Livonia.

The contest decision process was based on 50 percent personality and 50 percent appearance. Nearly 60,000 parents entered their children in Kid Search '93.

Courtney's "glamorous grin" placed her as one of the top 1,400 children from across the United States, according to Natasha Esch, director of Wilhelmina Models.

Balhorn won a J.C. Penney Portrait Studio portrait package, valued at \$139, and a chance to

charm the judges in a personal interview with agents from Wilhelmina Models agency.

One hundred regional finalists will be selected from across the country as Kid Search '93 national finalists. They will win an all-expense-paid weekend for themselves and one parent for the national finals in New York City. They will compete for the top 50 prizes which range from a \$150,000 modeling contract to a \$500 college scholarship.



Kortney Balhorn

## Writer from page 1C

saw me get it before he passed away," said Pennington, a grandmother of 12. "I couldn't afford to go to school when I was young, so it made us feel good," she said, adding that while her family didn't have a lot of money, their home

was filled with a lot of love and Christian values. A few years ago, Pennington reached another milestone when her book, "Dreams of Yesterday and Hopes for Tomorrow, a Book of Poetry," was published by Vantage Press in 1989.

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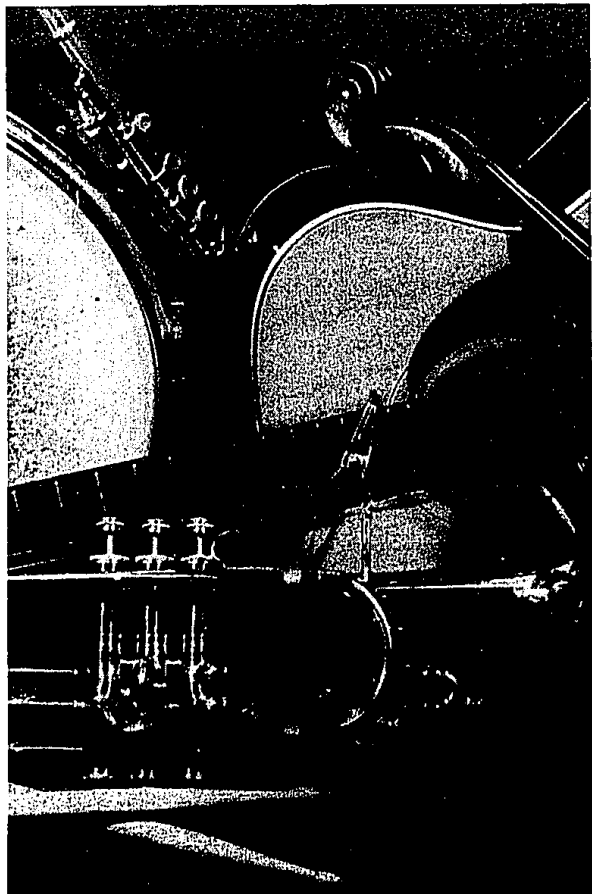
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