

CHAT ROOM



KATHIE O'DONOHUE

Pocket treasures reveal kids true personalities

For a time I hated pockets, specifically kid's pockets because within them I found chewed gum, rocks, pine cones, a shed cicada skin or two, inch-long pencils with erasers intact, black Kleenex and gritty substances unyielding to identification. Sometimes the contents remained unrealized until they rattled and banged in the dryer.

Yet I have learned — despite the stuck gum — to enjoy the adventures through my kids' pockets because it is within them that I learn my children. And I have come to see the things they treasure are often quite different from what we would expect.

Special notes

Children treasure notes written by their parents, stuffed into their lunchboxes or taped onto the side of their bunkbeds for them to discover upon awakening. These notes can be expressions of love or encouragement and can contain simple drawings of hearts and happy faces. These will be loved forever, tucked among the underwear and seldom worn neckties. "I'm sorry notes," not given often, become precious.

In my child's drawers I discover the things that move his heart ... little

Please See CHAT ROOM, B3

Here she is...new Miss Farmington

Ten contestants vied for the title of Miss Farmington/Oakland County in a three hour show big on entertainment.

By MARY RODRIGUE
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Asked who the one person is she'd most like to interview, new Miss Farmington/Oakland County Leslie Reinhold said she'd like to "turn the tables on Barbara Walters and ask her something that would make her cry."

The 19-year-old journalism major from Michigan State University was crowned queen last Wednesday evening at Vladimir's Banquet Center in Farmington Hills during the 26th local pageant, which is affiliated with the Miss Michigan and Miss America scholarship programs.

The petite brunette from Saginaw, who dressed in a German costume for the celebration of nations opening act, was making her first bid for the crown. Her sponsor was Executive Printing Services of Farmington Hills.

She sang the song "Anyone Can Whistle" from a Broadway musical for the talent competition. The daughter of Lori and Ken Reinhold, Leslie's platform was "Eating Disorders: HOPE through HELP."

First runner-up was Leilani Thorn, a 17-year-old senior from Waterford Mott High School who also snared the talent award for a high energy dance routine that included an astounding number of backflips. Thorn is a member of the WNBA Shock dance team.

Second runner-up was Francesca Romeo of Farmington Hills, a senior at the Detroit College of Business. She also won the community service award. Her pageant platform was "America Today: A Nation of Nations."



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL KIMBLE

Crowning glory: New Miss Farmington/Oakland County Leslie Reinhold waves to the crowd at Vladimir's Banquet Center in Farmington Hills.

An academic scholar award went to Victoria Anderson of Farmington Hills, a sophomore at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, double majoring in nuclear engineering and political science. She played a harp solo of her own arrangement for the talent portion of the show.

Rounding out the field of candidates were Madonna Emond who just graduated from Mercy High School, Novi residents Melissa Howard, Sarah Burkett

and Pamela Walk, Michelle Miller of Farmington Hills, and Stephanie Watson of West Bloomfield.

This year's pageant theme was "It's A Small World" and the opening number featured each contestant dressed in a costume of her ethnic heritage. Hawaii (twice), France, Italy, Germany, Scotland, England (twice), Holland and Ireland were represented as each contestant was introduced with Neil Diamond's "Coming to America"

playing in the background.

Another new twist — pint-sized pageant buddies escorted each contestant off the stage this year.

"These girls have really worked their butts off the past six months," said Ginny Morris, pageant executive director. She told the crowd of about 450 patrons that she has been offered a position with the Miss Michigan pageant program. Leter Morris explained that the post is administrative and that she will continue as executive director of the local pageant.

"This year Miss Farmington has the use of a car thanks to Gerry Oswald from the Marines," Morris said. Once again, the winner was offered a \$10,000 scholarship from Farmington Hills-based William Tyndale College as well as several other prizes.

Pageant ushers included a U.S. Marine Corps color guard, Farmington Hills firefighters Robert Smith, Brian Holzheimer, Chris Kozecynski and David Feichtner, and making a return appearance Special Olympics athletes Michael Holstine, David Reynolds, Nicholas Toroyan and Darrin Reynolds.

Erin Cogswell, Miss Farmington 1998-99, told the crowd about her recent experience with the Miss Michigan pageant, where she finished in the top ten. She assisted Jennifer Hoemke, Miss Farmington 1997-98, who was master of ceremonies for the evening.

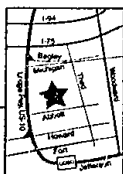
A highlight of the evening was an appearance by Kelly Garver Nedo, who was Miss Farmington in 1981 and 1985 and Miss Michigan 1986, as well as third runner up to Miss America in '86. She enthused the crowd to hand clapping and foot stomping by playing a couple of tunes on her electric fiddle — five months pregnant with her third child. She brought the crowd to its feet with a standing ovation.

Leslie Reinhold appeared in the Farmington Founder's Festival parade

Please See MISS FARMINGTON, B2

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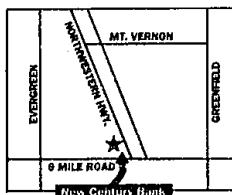
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