

Miss Farmington vies for state crown Saturday

By Lorraine McClish staff writer

Roxanne D'Ascendo is in Muskegon this week involved in all the preliminaries that will lead up to the crowning of Miss Michigan 1983 Saturday night.



Roxanne D'Ascendo, who hopes one day to be a professional entertainer, will draw on a lot of past experience for the talent, interview, swimsuit and evening gown appearance segments of the competition that will culminate in the crowning of Miss Michigan 1983.

Miss Farmington before her has seen because the Miss America Scholarship Pageant franchise holders in the state now number 32. But it isn't the largest competition D'Ascendo ever faced. She was chosen as a Michigan Panthers cheerleader last year, selected from a field of 400. "COMPETITION WAS THE reason

I entered the Miss Farmington Pageant," said D'Ascendo, who is working toward a career as an entertainer. "I wanted to see what an audition was all about."

She is confident about the talent portion of the competition because she's been performing as a dancer for almost 15 of her 18 years. But she's doing a lot of preparing for the personal interview with the pageant judges. "That's another thing altogether. That's having to be prepared for the unexpected," she said.

IN ADDITION to being judged on talent and personality through the interview, the 32 hopefuls for the state title will be judged in swimsuit and evening gown appearances.

Her swimsuit, gown and dance costume were designed for her by John Myatoylich, a designer who once saw her dance at the Michigan State Fair and said he would like one day to do a costume for her. "He chose a raspberry color for both my swimsuit and evening gown. We agree it's my best color," D'Ascendo said.

Her costume is made of blue, with a skull cap created in the fashion of the 1920s to coordinate with her jazz dance choreographed by Helen Reddy's "The Last Blues Song."

"I've always been comfortable on stage dancing. Meeting an audience is one thing. Meeting people face-to-face and being at ease talking to strangers was quite another thing for me. But that's changed considerably this past year."

"That's been one of the biggest personal benefits I've had since I became Miss Farmington. I've met so many people and made so many new friends."

BEING MISS Farmington also brought her to having to make one of the biggest, and hardest, decisions she's ever had to make.



Winning the title of Miss Farmington and then cheering the squad added up to a busy and hectic schedule this year for Roxanne D'Ascendo.

As a member of the Panthers cheerleading team, making rounds of appearances as Miss Farmington, preparing for the Miss Michigan pageant, teaching students at Dance Dynamics Studios, and trying to juggle that into rehearsals for North Farmington High School's spring play just to be too much. "One of the things I wanted to do for as long as I can remember was to be in my senior play. I was looking forward to it. I had gotten the part of Mrs. Gibbs in "Our Town" but with the Panthers' schedule, something had to give," she said.

DEAN COBB, DRAMA instructor at the school, helped with the decision by saying her experience with the Panthers would be much more beneficial for her career.

"It was right, of course. There is so much exposure I can get by being on the Panther squad, but giving up Mrs. Gibbs was a hard thing to do," she said.

Meanwhile, Cobb is helping her with her main concern at the moment: how

to handle the spontaneous answers she will have to give during her interview. And she's also gotten help "from every teacher I've got."

Her final examinations are all behind her, pushed up a week by all of her teachers to allow her breathing time before the Miss Michigan pageant activities begin.

AT LAST COUNT, Miss Farmington pageant executive Susan Miramonti said 89 tickets had been sold for the Miss Michigan Pageant to D'Ascendo's well-wishers.

Among that 89 who will be in the audience cheering on Miss Farmington are her mother Sarah, an older brother E.J., a younger brother Cory, a host of friends from North Farmington High and "about half of the Panther cheerleaders," she said.

"I just want to make them all proud of me. No matter how things turn out, I just want them to be proud."

The week after the Miss Michigan pageant, D'Ascendo will graduate from

North Farmington with the class of '83.

After that, she will begin to prepare for the Miss Farmington Pageant when she relinquishes her crown to the new title holder on the evening of July 27. The event traditionally opens Founders Festival activities.

AT LEAST TWO former Miss Farmingtons will be on the pageant program this year: Dorissa LaMarra and Kelly Ann Garver.

Miss Farmington of 1977 is now Dorissa LaMarra Matkowski and owner of Dance Dynamics, a Walked Lake studio where D'Ascendo teaches tap, jazz and ballet. When Miss Farmington of 1977 competed in the Miss Michigan pageant, she took the prize for "best talent" and will be dancing for the pageant-goers this summer.

Garver is a violinist who played a classical and country music medley that brought her a standing ovation on pageant night when she took the Miss Farmington title in 1981.

Day of video games is fund-raiser for Summer Teen Center

Video-game enthusiasts can enjoy their arcade favorites while helping to raise money for Farmington Youth Assistance (FYA) Summer Teen Center.

From 9 a.m. to 1 a.m. Friday, June 17, has been designated FYA Arcade Day in Great Get Away, a video arcade and restaurant located in Farmington Plaza on Grand River, one block west of Orchard Lake Road.

FYA, a volunteer community service organization dedicated to the prevention of juvenile delinquency, has sponsored the teen center for the past six years. Last year more than 250 area youth took advantage of the center activities, which included sports, crafts, "dancercise," arcade games, movies, field trips and rap sessions, under the supervision of an adult staff.

The center, which is set up every summer in the Shilawasee school building, 30415 Shilawasee, near Nine Mile and Tuck roads, is open free of charge to all area teens during late-afternoon and early-evening hours, Monday-Friday, during the summer months.

Special field trips scheduled on Tuesdays have included baseball games, horseback riding, trips to the zoo and canoeing.

Great Get Away owners Sheldon Korn and Allen Gottlieb will be offering game tokens at a special price, five tokens for \$1, to encourage a good turnout for the benefit.

They have pledged 30 percent of the day's proceeds to FYA to help pay for field trips and for the purchase and repair of equipment for the center.

The arcade offers 40 video games including Galaga, Qbert, Donkey Kong Jr. and Ms. Pacman, as well as pinball and football games.

THE ARCADE, still in its first year of operation, adds the FYA Arcade Day benefit to a list of community service projects. Korn and Gottlieb have sponsored fund-raisers for Farmington Area Jaycees, Farmington High School's senior class and Kids' Day in Farmington City Park. They have opened the arcade to the children from Sarah Fisher Home, providing them with free food and tokens, as well as loaning video machines to the local YMCA for children's sleep-over nights.

Korn and Gottlieb are also partners in a general contracting business. Gottlieb, married with two young sons, is a Southfield resident. Korn, his wife, Gail, and two children have lived in Farmington Hills for the past seven years.

When asked what prompts their involvement in community activities, Korn's response was twofold.

"We wanted to prove that a video game center could be an asset to a community," he said, "and I love kids. I enjoy helping them out and giving them a decent place to spend their time."



Kimberly Turney, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Tim Turney of Farmington Hills, was judged the area's "Most Beautiful Baby" by the Jaycees. The contest is sponsored each spring to promote the club's infant safety program.

Kim takes the prize

A 4-month-old, the youngest infant ever to be in the running for the area's "Most Beautiful Baby" contest, took the top prize when the announcements were made by members of Farmington Area Jaycees this week.

Kimberly Jean Turney, born Jan. 30 to Mr. and Mrs. Tim Turney of Farmington Hills, won herself a GM Love Seat donated by Bob Saks Oldsmobile.

Kimberly's mother and father are both natives of Farmington Hills. She has a 4-year-old sister Jessica and a 2-year-old brother Matthew.

Kristopher Ross Pollak, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Ernie Pollak of Farmington Hills, won the second prize in the contest which is gift certificates from Mylo's Children's Wear and Gabe Shoes, both Farmington Hills merchants.

Sarah Plescow, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Chris Plescow of Plymouth, took the third prize; gift certificates

from Pixieland and Greg Shoes, both in Farmington.

THE JAYCEES contest is staged every spring as a promotion for its infant safety program, Buckle Up Babies (BUBs) and was started long before the state law went into effect making child seats mandatory for infants.

The Jaycees began their BUBs program with the rental of GM Love Seats when it was learned that automobile collisions are one of the leading causes of accidental death for those under 1 year of age.

The rental is still carried on by the chapter which has 50 seats for loan, and most of them loaned out most of the time.

A seat can be rented for \$10 for a nine-month period, which is the average period of time a child will grow out of the seat. The Jaycees also ask for a \$10 refundable deposit.

Finns begin fund drive for archive restoration

Finns in the U.S. have declared 1983 "The Year of the Finnish American Archives," with a goal of \$50,000 to be reached for the preservation of their historical records.

"Newspapers, books, periodicals, letters, personal papers, organization records and a hundred other things are literally falling apart," said Felix Jakonen, a Southfield resident who is working toward the goal with members

of Finnish American Historical History.

Money raised is to be divided equally between Suomal College Archives in Hancock, Mich. and the Immigration History Research Center of University of Minnesota for microfilm and other techniques to record Finnish history. The project will be a joint effort.

In the Detroit area, committees from four churches and five organizations are working to meet the goal.

Jorma Sarto, an Orchard Lake resident, heads the committee from Finlandia Male Chorus, and can be reached for information by calling 363-4328.

Viola Pudas, a Farmington Hills resident, represents Kaveja Knights and Ladies and can be reached by calling 478-7620.

Finnish Center Association is represented by Mr. and Mrs. Toivo Hill and

can be reached by calling 533-7691.

Finnish Summer Camp Association is represented by Jack Karell, 624-3053.

Jacksonville will take calls at 354-1094.

Many of the members of these organizations will be traveling to Minneapolis the first week in August for the group's National Festival and a Finnish American Heritage Forum, staged this year in connection with the fund drive.

Girlstown supporters begin statewide sale

Farmington Hills Junior Woman's Club, which is a consistent contributor to Girlstown, will join in a statewide copkita sale, the first coordinated fundraiser for the Belleville, Mich. facility. Local club members join in the sale through its affiliation with Michigan State Federation of Women's Club, which established Girlstown in 1958.

Now in its 25th year, Girlstown is a care and treatment facility for girls who have been removed from their homes by the courts.

The staff at Girlstown includes professionals who counsel, tutor, and work with the girls to bring their lives back to normal. In addition, the staff counsels family members in an attempt to

bring about the understanding necessary to enable each girl to return to her own family environment under improved conditions.

By housing only 12 girls at one time, Girlstown provides a homelike setting in which each girl receives individualized attention and personal care. The residential treatment program

for adolescents is the primary method of service, but a foster-care and independent living program are developing extensions of Girlstown's services.

More than providing a place to live, Girlstown offers the benefits of close-knit family living; sharing of responsibilities and decisions; and participation in school and community activities.

Advertisement for Lingerie Designer Intimate Apparel. The text reads: 'Lingerie Designer Intimate Apparel. 25%-50% off. Swimwear, Loungewear, Christian Dior Intimates...and much more.' The background features a stylized graphic of the word 'Lingerie'.

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