

# Miss Michigan United

## Pageant opens doors to show biz careers

Applications are being accepted from women ages 17-25 for the Miss Michigan United Beauty Pageant, the ninth annual pageant of its kind, staged as an introduction to those wishing to enter modeling or show business careers.

"Talent presentations are not part of the pageant," said Cynthia Guenther, a resident of West Bloomfield. "The contestants are judged on a personal interview, their figure, poise, personality, intelligence and photographic potential. We open doors for modeling, auto show and media work. Our winner this year will automatically 'star' in an Ellas Brothers Big Boy commercial."

And our 25 finalists will all be invited to audition to work in the auto shows. Of the 25 who auditioned last year, 20 of them traveled the entire circuit with one of several companies," she said.

The Miss Michigan United Beauty Pageant is the only pageant in the state that arranges pre-pageant parties for its contestants to meet talent scouts, the judges and one another. This year's pre-pageant parties will take place in Taboo, Streamers and Gimpolis.

The pageant is televised on cable TV, Omnicast, United Cable, Booth and Metrovision for sure, which

gives the girls more exposure, which is what this pageant is all about," Guenther said.

**PRIZES FOR** the contenders come from Pointe Dodge, Pointe Chrysler-Plymouth, John Robert Powers Modeling School of Southfield, Dittich Furs of Detroit and Bloomfield Hills, Eastern Airlines, Mira Linder's Spa-in-the-City in Southfield, Wayne Amusement Movie Theaters, BeDazzled Jewelers of Oakland Mall, Captured Live Productions of Royal Oak, Ondine's Beauty Salon of Southfield, and Couture Boutique of Farmington Hills.

"There are still more prizes. We give a just-for-fun drawing for the first 25 contestants who enter at one of the pre-pageant parties, for junkies to Las Vegas, a portfolio of photographs. We do whatever we can to make this period a fun time for them," Guenther said.

"We also choose a Miss Photogenic, and sometimes she or some of the runners-up get as many job offers as our winner," she said.

Kimberly Smith, Miss Michigan United 1985, who traveled the Honda Auto Show circuit after she won the title, is now appearing in the current Fitness USA advertisements.



Kimberly Smith, a resident of Taylor, will give up her crown at the close of this year's Miss Michigan United Pageant, set for June 18 in Premier Center.

"She placed second in the national competition last year," Guenther said, "which won her a \$2,000 scholarship she used at University of Michigan. I've had a runner-up in the finals every time since we've entered the national pageant. Maybe

this is the year I'll find my national winner."

Smith will give up her title at the conclusion of the 1986 pageant Wednesday, June 18 in Premier Center, Sterling Heights.

**DEADLINE** to enter the pageant is June 4. Entry forms are available by contacting the pageant headquarters, 851-7488.

"Age is a strict requirement. Contestants must never have been married, and they must be a resident of Michigan, or be officially registered at a Michigan school or university. Other than that the only requirement is to be sincere about wanting this kind of career."

"One of our most important prizes is modeling scholarships from John Robert Powers that needs dedication to be beneficial. Mira Linder and Ondine's Couture Boutique work very hard to make our winners look their very best for the national competition. It all takes a lot of dedication, a lot of cooperation, a lot of hard work, a lot of discipline."

On the way to the hard work, the contestants will vie for a trip to the Bahamas, a fur coat, a custom-made evening gown, and a diamond pendant.



### retirement memos

Margaret Miller

## Books are to sell as well as to read

For a lot of years, I wrote in this newspaper about book sale fund-raisers for the American Association of University Women. Now I've had three years of participation in these mighty endeavors.

It's a better-late-than-never retirement experience.

Selling used books has become, over the years, a fairly standard way for this time-tested women's organization to support its many educational projects. In the Sarasota branch I joined, major sales have been held for just three years, but they keep getting bigger and more lucrative.

Receipts for three days of shopping mall selling have mounted from about \$1,900 in 1984 to \$3,600 in 1985 to above \$4,000 this year.

**BOOK SALES** IN retirement-land have some different wrinkles. For one thing, AAUW workers have agreements with the volunteer librarians of several retirement centers. Several times a year we haul off a few hundred books that have been given to these libraries.

On a smaller scale, those of us who live in condominiums keep a steady supply coming in. Our building, for instance, has a few shelves where residents put books they no longer want so others may pick up reading matter. Joe and I keep a close watch on the shelves, and after books have been there a month or so we liberate them.

There also are two libraries in the area that hold their own fund-raiser sales, and for the last two years the AAUW has collected what they had

left.

**ALL THIS ADDS** up to a full year of book-lugging and organizational work for a number of members, especially a hard-working chairwoman. She estimated that by the time this January's sale rolled around, between 15,000 and 20,000 books had been collected, sorted and priced.

And when the selling had culminated in a few hours of two-books-for-a-quarter bargains, there were maybe 1,000 left. "We sold a lot of books," she understated.

Top price this year was \$45 for a beautiful book of art prints. Two complete encyclopedias brought \$25 each, and someone paid \$10 for a set of the works of O. Henry.

**BUT THERE WAS** a humbling side to the report on the year's successful efforts. At the first branch meeting afterward, the chairwoman noted with pleasure that more than 100 people had worked on the sale. She thanked all for their help and announced the glorious \$4,002.05 total. Then it was time to introduce guests at the meeting.

One visitor from the north congratulated our branch and said she, recently had been involved in an AAUW book sale. "We made \$11,000," she said. I guess we have a way to go.

Margaret Miller was Suburban Life editor for Observer Newspapers for 26 years. She and her husband Joe have retired to Florida, where she writes Retirement Memos.

## Heritage gardening offered through 4-H

Folklore has played an important role in gardening. Every culture has built a legacy of gardening and farming "rules" that have been passed from generation to generation, such as "Plant root vegetables in the dark of the moon; plant others in the light of the moon."

The 4-H Heritage Gardening-Vegetables project provides young people with an opportunity to preserve traditional customs, skills and vegetable varieties for the future.

"Unlike antique furniture, seeds cannot be stored and used later," says Jane Taylor, extension assistant and co-developer of the program. "They must be planted and new seeds collected for the species to survive."

Developed by the Michigan 4-H Youth Program, the Michigan State University MSU, and the Department of Horticulture, the project combines humanities and ag-

riculture to celebrate the American horticultural heritage. Through Heritage Gardening, 4-H members, volunteer leaders and other residents of local communities learn what vegetables early pioneers grew, how to cultivate heirloom vegetable varieties, how vegetables got their name, how seeds are formed and much more.

"Heritage Gardening is a 19th century project that uses heirloom vegetable seeds and incorporates the folklore of gardening, such as dowsing for water and planting by the moon," Taylor said. "Growing heirloom vegetables allows young people to explore their 'roots.'"

**AN HEIRLOOM** vegetable is a variety that was introduced and grown before 1900. Many of these varieties are no longer sold by seed companies.

Some heirloom varieties are not

disease resistant, don't produce high yields and may not have great flavor. The growth of the seed industry. Improvements in plant varieties and increased knowledge about gardening techniques have changed the look of gardens and the way they are planted.

Each year, fewer and fewer varieties are grown. Currently, the world depends on only about 20 crop species for 90 percent of its food.

"Scientists are concerned about the shrinking gene pool as old varieties are becoming extinct," Taylor said.

Museums are frequently interested in restoring historic homes, complete with historically authentic vegetable gardens. A Heritage Gardening project can get community members involved in the restoration.

It also promotes heritage sharing between young and old.

To learn more about opportunities for participation in various 4-H activities and programs, including Heritage Gardening, as a member or a volunteer contact Oakland County 4-H office at 858-0889.

## 'Measles Alert' issued by health officials

The Oakland County Health Division is advising area physicians, hospitals, and parents to be on the alert for measles and to take preventive action.

"Reports from the Federal Centers for Disease Control show that the number of states reporting cases of measles has steadily increased through the first ten weeks of 1985," according to Joel Blostein, epidemiologist with the health division. A total of 733 cases of measles, also known as rubella or hard measles, have been reported in the United States between Jan. 1 and March 15 of this year.

"Although Michigan hasn't reported any cases so far in 1985, we're concerned because within the past month several states in the Midwest have reported cases," said Blostein. "Measles is one of the most highly communicable diseases, and we're a very mobile society. Measles outbreaks can spread across the state borders very fast."

Blostein added that vaccination levels tend to be lower among high school and college students compared to grade school students, making teenagers and young adults a group currently considered at higher risk for measles.

"Traditionally, many teenagers and young adults travel out of state at this time of year and so they can be exposed to the disease in other areas that may be experiencing measles activity. Since measles has an incubation period of up to 14 days, they often bring it back to their home community and spread it to others who are not immune."

**MEASLES, WHICH** is caused by a

virus, can be prevented by a vaccine. In fact, the use of the vaccine in the U.S. starting in the 1960s has resulted in a dramatic decline in the number of measles cases reported every year. Measles vaccine, usually given with vaccines against rubella (or German measles, which is caused by a different virus and is a different disease) and mumps, is recommended for children at 15 months of age. As in most other states, measles, mumps and rubella vaccines are now required for Michigan children prior to school entry.

Measles is characterized by a red, blotchy rash that usually starts on the face and spreads to the rest of the body. The rash is preceded by fever, runny eyes, runny nose and cough. Contrary to popular belief, it is often a severe disease, and can be complicated by ear infections and pneumonia. Brain infections are a rare complication but very severe complication.

Although the incidence of measles has dropped off substantially in the last 15-20 years, several outbreaks have occurred in recent years. In 1985, there were several outbreaks

throughout the country, most occurring among students on college campuses.

"Oakland County had school-centered outbreaks in both 1984 and 1985," said Blostein. He added that an outbreak of more than 100 cases at a college in Illinois in 1985 resulted in three deaths.

"Health officials recommend that parents check to make certain their children have been vaccinated against measles, rubella and mumps. Measles and rubella vaccinations given before the first birthday should be repeated, and children who received the killed measles vaccine available prior to 1967 should be reimmunized.

Vaccination is also recommended for adults, especially those born after 1956, if they do not have proof of being immune either through having had a doctor-diagnosed case of measles, or through a previous appropriate vaccination, or through laboratory tests showing immunity.

Vaccinations are available free of charge in the Oakland County Health Division and other local health departments.

## Scholarships available to 4-H members

National scholarships totaling \$37,000 will be made available to local 4-H members who meet eligibility requirements set by the Cooperative Extension Service.

Most \$1,000 grants are being made available to young people planning careers in agriculture or related fields such as forestry, veterinary medicine and animal science. A \$3,000 scholarship is provided for a youth who plans for a career in the fashion industry. Three other scholarships place no restrictions on choice of curriculum.

The scholarships are provided by private sector donors and arranged by National 4-H Council, a not-for-profit organization that uses private resources to support the 4-H program.

Applicants for all scholarships must have completed at least one year of 4-H work. Winners will be selected by the Cooperative Extension Service and announced at National 4-H Congress.

Eligible individuals interested in applying for these scholarships should contact the Oakland County 4-H office at 858-0889 for application forms.

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## Jelly-bean guessing pays off for 2 in area

Two Farmington Hills residents, Jackie May and Joanne Ryan, were among the finalists who came closest to guessing the correct number of jelly beans that were placed in Fred Sanders' stores prior to Easter. Dorothy Spaven, a Livonia resi-

dent, won the grand prize, a trip to Disney World for four in the Easter Trip Hunt contest.

The 39 finalists were all invited to tour Sanders production facilities and have lunch with Jack Sanders.

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