

# Suburban Life

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## Miss Michigan United

### Pageant that launches show biz careers boasts many winners



Debbie Dickerson, a runner-up in the 1990 pageant and a Farmington Hills resident, is traveling every week on tour with the Chevrolet auto show.

By Lorraine McClellan  
staff writer

**A**BOUT 80 PERCENT of the young women who work for the Detroit Auto Show earlier this year got their jobs through their participation in the Miss Michigan United Beauty Pageant.

"I can say that absolutely and without hesitation," said Cynthia Guenther, a resident of West Bloomfield and executive director of the longest running pageant of its kind in the state. "That's what this pageant is all about - to provide Michigan women with a vehicle for obtaining recognition that will begin careers in modeling, the auto shows and media work."

The winner, runners up and 25 finalists will get auto show auditions. There will be talent agents and representatives from half a dozen auto companies in the audience. The winner and runners-up will have an

opportunity to qualify for Miss Autorama 1992. The winner is an automatic star for a Big Boy commercial and she will appear in a 1992 issue of Motor Trend magazine. She'll also get an audition to be spokesperson for Fitness USA, along with a one year membership.

"There are always many winners that come from the pageant. You don't have to be the title holder to be a winner, and now that the Miss Michigan United Talent Agency has opened, that's another vehicle to open doors for young women who are serious about a show business career."

APPLICATIONS are now being accepted for the 14th annual pageant, set for Wednesday, June 19 in Clubland, in Detroit's theater district.

To qualify, a prospective contestant must be 17 years old and no older than 29 years old by Dec. 31, 1991. She must be single on the day of the pageant and must be a resident of

Michigan or officially registered with a Michigan school or university.

Applications will be sent on request by calling the pageant headquarters, 851-7468.

Once a beauty pageant, it is now a scholarship pageant.

The winner and four finalists will receive a total of \$6,000 to further their educations, and they will also divide \$10,400 in scholarships to the Specs Howard School of Broadcast Arts. There is an \$800 scholarship waiting for the winner to pick up for a professional modeling workshop sponsored by Imagemaker, Inc. and a professional training course for actors from "Performance Workshop."

Guenther emphasizes that no talent presentation is required for the competition. The contestants are judged on a personal interview, their figures, charm, poise, personality, intelligence and photogenic potential.

Last year's winner was Kenya Moore.

"She has worked in the auto shows for Buick from Miami to Los Angeles and is still traveling. She's using her scholarship money to get a degree in communications at Wayne State," Guenther said.

**OTHER PRIZES** for the winner is the use of a car from Buick Wheelan Chevrolet, a Norwegian Blue Fox coat from Fashion Furs, a Las Vegas holiday from ASL Travel and Key Tours, an evening gown from Simon's European Fashions and a model portfolio from Michael Coluzzi.

A tradition for the Miss Michigan United Pageant is the pre-pageant parties where the contestants and the judges meet one another on an informal basis. The parties will take place this year at Vis-a-Vis in Pontiac, at Barrymore's in Detroit, and The Net Werk in Mt. Clemens.

The judges will interview the contestants in Sheraton Oaks, Novi.



Kenya Moore, winner of the Miss Michigan United pageant in 1990, is now traveling with Buick auto shows.

## 12 young artists to collect prizes

Steve Wheelis, a student at Farmington High School, has taken the first prize for a drawn portrait in Farmington Area Arts Commission's 6th annual "Student Art Awards" competition.

He was followed by second place winner Dan Zimmerman, a student at North Farmington High, for his abstract design. Third place went to Lisa Goodman, a student at North Farmington, for her silver bracelet.

"We do this to recognize and promote the work of the young artist as well as the artist," said Bev Ellis, a veteran of the arts commission.

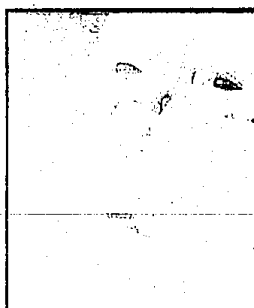
"There is no evaluation before the judging. All work is accepted. We give as many honorable mentions as the judge chooses. We've given as few as six and as many as 10. This

year we have nine honorable mention winners."

Judge for this year's competition was Gail Vurazek, who was chosen Artist-in-Residence by the commission in 1980.

Honorable mentions this year went to Marcia Ayres and Tom Muirhead, both of North Farmington High; to Melissa Dykowski, Heather Phares and Dave Prusinski of Harrison; and to Kelly Carroll, Denise Cawley, Katie Eshaki and Joanne Yond of Mercy High.

The students will receive their awards at a reception from 3-5 p.m. Sunday, April 28 in The Community Center. There is no charge. The event is given to introduce the students to area residents.



First-prize winner in the contest is Steve Wheelis, who shows his winning work, a portrait that will be on display in The Community Center when he takes his \$300 cash award.



Lisa Goodman created a bracelet that won the North Farmington High School student the third place award of \$100.

Three of the nine students who won honorable mentions pose with their winning works of art. From left are Melissa Bykowski, Heather Phares and Dave Prusinski. All are students at Harrison High School, and all of them have won \$50 cash awards.



## Owners manual penned by nurse for diabetic kids

By Carolyn DeMarco  
staff writer

**I**F THERE'S any advice Janice Goffin can offer young diabetics, it's this: "You can do anything and live as normal as anyone else and still take care of your diabetes."

Goffin should know; the Bedford woman is a registered nurse and diabetes educator in the endocrinology clinic at Henry Ford Medical Center-West Bloomfield. And if that's not enough she's been a diabetic herself since the age of nine.

"I have only vague memories that I was different than other kids," she said of her childhood. "Mom did a super job, but I did feel restricted

... I remember I tried to play on it (the fact that she had diabetes) and use it to my advantage a little. I wanted whatever I was told I couldn't have."

As a youngster in Farmington Hills, Goffin tried to find out more about her disease from a book her mother had, since there was nothing comprehensive available for children. "I couldn't grasp it. It was frightening to me," she explained.

With that in mind, six years ago Goffin set out to write her own "owner's manual" for young diabetics. "Randy Has Diabetes," geared for elementary-age children with juvenile diabetes, has just been published. The paperback is written through the eyes of Randy, an 11-

year-old diabetic who explains the symptoms, diagnosis and complications as well as the importance of a proper diet and exercise. It also teaches how to physically deal with the disease including giving blood tests and insulin injections, and touches on the emotional aspects.

"The kid is probably me," Goffin said of Randy, "in the way I wanted to feel."

**THE BOOK**, Goffin said, is one of only two on the subject. "There are many pamphlets and comics that talk about the disease, but none provide an educational overview for children," she said. "Most of the materials that are available are written in terminology only adults can understand."

By contrast, Goffin says of her book, "A child who can read can understand the concepts explained in the book." The book was illustrated by Goffin's artist sister, Patricia Aubuchon of Apache Junction, Ariz.

Getting the book published was no easy feat. "I knew there was a need but it was such a narrow field," Goffin said, "and it had three strikes against it - it was for a child, it was already illustrated and it was medical."

Patricia's husband, Edward, took on the project and published the book himself. "He's the publisher, editor and proofreader," Goffin said of her brother-in-law.

The book will be a useful tool for Goffin's current position: She gives

one-on-one educational aid to adults and children in all stages of the disease. She also coordinates live series of classes for Henry Ford throughout the year on "Practical Living with Diabetes" at the West Bloomfield facility. The next one starts the last Monday in February and meets from 7-9:30 p.m. for five consecutive weeks. The class is open to anyone of any age for a small fee, but registration in advance is necessary.

Goffin is also responsible for an adult support group which meets at 10 a.m. on the second Saturday of the month in the Henry Ford West Bloomfield multipurpose room or 7 p.m. the fourth Thursday of the month in the ambulatory surgery lunchroom. There is no charge and

no need to register.

A NEW SUPPORT group to help the parents of children with diabetes is now forming. The group will meet in the multipurpose room of Henry Ford West Bloomfield. Neither parents nor children need be patients at Henry Ford.

Juvenile diabetes usually first occurs in grade school children, Goffin said, but the onset may be delayed anytime before 30. Goffin works with kids as young as four years old. "Some don't understand the seriousness of it, and they dislike the injections and the blood-testing. They're a tremendous bunch, the most precocious