

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 1992

SUBURBAN LIFE

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SOCIAL EYES



DENISE LUCAS

Event celebrates Vogue's 100 years

To enlighten Social Eyes with information on upcoming events involving Greater West Bloomfield/Lakes, Farmington and Southfield area residents, call 442-2339 or mail information to Denise Lucas at The Eccentric, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham 48009.

Strike a pose, there's nothing to it — Vogue — Vogue — Vogue.

Jacobson's in Birmingham was the place to be Aug. 25, for the 100th birthday celebration of America's favorite fashion monthly, Vogue magazine.

The storewide setting was a playground of fabulous food, fabulous fall fashions and fabulous 500.

More than 600 people flowed through the Bates Street entrance that had promotions manager and Vogue-style '92 committee member Pamela Rock scheduling a second runway fashion show to accommodate the under-garment crowd who bought tickets at the door.

The affordable \$25 ticket price was a real bargain, for an evening of wine, food, fashion and fun, with the fund-raising dollars going to a great cause — the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation.

Special guest Beverly Purcell, merchandising editor of Vogue magazine, simplified fall's fashion runway forecast into six segment categories: "Long and Lean" (long slim skirts), "Hardware" (lots of zippers, studs, buckles and chains), "Denim & Western," "Menswear" (for women, of course), "Animal Print" and "Red" (fall's hottest color).

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Pageant's price

Special wardrobe is among expenses

Troy resident Shannon Clark, Miss Michigan World, is trying to get sponsors to help in her bid for the title of Miss World America in 1993.

BY ETHEL SIMMONS
STAFF WRITER

Becoming a beauty queen is a great way to get started on a future career, but along the way it can be an expensive proposition.

Twenty-year-old Shannon Clark of Troy has claimed beauty titles as Miss Troy, Miss Michigan Perfect Teen, and now Miss Michigan World for 1993. She will compete in the national competition for Miss World America next May in California.

The striking 6-footer, with a long mane of hair, remembers her first pageant, for Miss Troy, when, "The only thing I bought for that was a \$10 bathing suit, on sale, from J.C. Penney. For the evening gown competition, I wore my prom dress from my junior prom."

As Miss Michigan World, Clark's prizes include a \$1,200 college scholarship, which she will use when she returns to Macomb Community College next year to continue studies in sports broadcasting. She also received a scholarship to the Specs Howard School of Broadcasting Arts in Southfield.

But these educational prizes don't pay for her daily living expenses, and she has had to give up her full-time job as a dental assistant to devote time to Miss Michigan World personal appearances and to prepare for the Miss World America contest.



JIM BIRCH/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

What it costs: Shannon Clark lounges on deck of her Troy home, holding blue evening dress worn in one of the beauty contests she won. The gown typifies the kinds of expenses involved in competing in a pageant.

Needs some help

Even her Miss Michigan World prize of a full-length white mink coat doesn't help out, when she needs to have an expensive gown, along with jewelry and

shoes, to wear in the upcoming competition. She also needs several suits for preliminary pageant interviews and daytime dresses for the personal appearances.

The name of the game is sponsors, to

help with expenses. Clark, a Troy Athens High School graduate, has been trying to get some assistance from local businesses and service clubs.

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Having 'roommate from hell' can make college days tough

BY TIM CARVELL
STAFF WRITER

The story you are about to read is true. Some of the names have been changed to protect the innocent. And the guilty.

When Dinah called her roommate, Pat, before the start of her freshman year at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, she thought she had found a real winner.

"She sounded really cool," Dinah said, "but she was from hell."

Pat, as it turned out, wanted total quiet and darkness in the room when she went to sleep — around 10 p.m.

When Pat walked in on Dinah and a group of friends and, without saying a word, turned off the lights and the stereo and went to sleep, Dinah fought back.

Pat didn't return to the room for two weeks.

Sometimes, roommates don't work out.

As hordes of college freshmen (and women) troop off to school, they may find that their biggest challenge will be met not in the classroom, but in the dorm room. For students who have never shared a room before, the roommate experience can be more stressful than any final exam.

A lack of communication, according to Oakland University director Jean Miller, is frequently the cause of roommate wars.

"The most important thing is communication," she said. "You need to set up your goals and expectations right at the start."

Resident advisors are sometimes called on, Miller said, to outline behavioral agreements between roommates.

"I do recall one that I worked on for three or four hours," she said. "It had 19 items, and we're talking trivial stuff. They'd call me from time to time when one of them broke the contract, but they did end up living together for the year."

She paused after delivering that happy ending.

"No — wait. No, they ended up transferring rooms."

Sometimes, a room transfer is the only solution to student stand-offs, but most college administrators suggested moving only as a last resort. U-M doesn't even allow transfers for the first three weeks of school.

"We've had people go into a room for 10 minutes, walk out and say 'I can't live with this person,'" said U-M director of housing Alan Levy.

"You can't make a judgment in that amount of time."

Some of the most touchy

disputes, Levy said, center on the subject of race.

"The ugliest situations we deal with have been racial," Levy said. "There are situations where you have black and white roommates and one requests a room change based on that alone."

More often, though, conflicts arise from personality differences.

"Usually, it's some collection of inactivities where one roommate is passive and the other roommate will unconsciously rub salt into his wounds," Levy said.

Sylvia Jankowski, of West Bloomfield, can attest to that. In his freshman year at U-M, Jankowski had two roommates.

"One of them was a really big slob," he said. "The other one was the most annoying person you'd ever hope to meet."

And just what did Annoying Man do?

"He took Tae Kwon Do, so he'd practice in the room. He'd kick my bed, my desk. Everything."

Slob, meanwhile, would often take over the room to spend time with his girlfriend.

So, when did Sylvia, Slob and Annoying Man work things out?

"We didn't. We just lived with it, and that was it."

Sometimes, Miller acknowledged, just living with it is the only solution.

"It's a learning process," she said. "You have to find the commonalities."

The college advisors said nothing was certain in roommate situations; a good friendship is no guarantee of smooth sailing.

Levy noted that the compromise necessary in a good roommate relationship can make close friends former friends.

"We've had friends rooming together," he said. "Sometimes those work very well, and sometimes they're spectacular failures."

When it becomes clear that a spectacular failure has taken place, a parting of the ways can become necessary.

"Sometimes, it's like a marriage," Levy said. "There are irreconcilable differences."

Keep the scene simpatico

In the current thriller "Single White Female," a roommate goes berserk and nearly bashes her fellow apartment-dweller's head in with a tire iron.

To keep your roommate situation from reaching that stage, college administrators offered plenty of dorm dos and don'ts.

DO:

- Communicate. The first conversation you and your roommate have should center on needs and expectations. Explain realistically and honestly what you want from your roommate and listen to what they expect

from you. Work out such basics as room maintenance, study hours, noise level, guest arrangements and sleep times at the outset, and stick to them.

- Compromise. So long as your roommate's demands are within reason, try to meet him halfway. Even if his demands aren't within reason, at least talk things out.

- Expect problems. No roommate situation is perfect. There will be times when you and your roommate's expectations clash

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