

COMMUNITY LIFE

THURSDAY, JULY 18, 1996

Page A13

Here she is: Miss Farmington

Eight talented young women competed for the crown and to represent this area at the Miss Michigan pageant.

BY MARY RODRIGUE
STAFF WRITER



It was a night of talent and nerves, promise and excitement for eight young women who vied for the title of Miss Farmington/Hills in the 23rd annual scholarship pageant last Wednesday evening.

"Anything Goes" was the theme and Vladimir's banquet hall was the scene as Annette Hohl was crowned the 1996-97 queen before a packed house of family, friends, pageant supporters and local dignitaries. Hohl, 20, a Farmington Hills resident and Michigan State University junior, was crowned by outgoing queen Audrie Chernauckas.

For her talent portion of the pageant, Hohl, dressed in sparkling blue sequined leotard with matching skirt, performed a rousing tap dance routine to a medley of music including "Let's Twist Again."

The petite blond graduate of Livonia's Ladywood High School was sponsored by the Focal Point Studios of Farmington. She was first runner-up in last year's competition. Hohl's platform was "A Stand for Children," and in questioning by the judges, she talked about her recent trip to Washington D.C. for a rally for American children.

"Every day in America, 2,600 babies are born into poverty, and 8,400 children are reported abused or neglected," she said.

The daughter of Greg and Sharon Hohl, she is double majoring in journalism and theatre at MSU.

First runner up was Kelly Curtiss,



STAFF PHOTO BY BRADON LOMACK

CROWNING GLORY: Annette Hohl receives congratulations from fellow contestants as Audrie Chernauckis (left) prepares to crown her as the new Miss Farmington/Hills. To the immediate right are Kelly Curtiss and Jennifer Hoemke, runners up.

21, a West Bloomfield High School graduate and resident of that city. She is a student at Eastern Michigan University.

She was also named Miss Congeniality, an honor the contestants vote upon among themselves.

Curtiss was sponsored by Infinity Salon of Farmington Hills. Dressed in Kelly green, the daughter of Bob and Sharon Curtiss performed ballet on point to a number she choreographed herself. Her platform was the humane treatment of animals.

She volunteers for the Michigan Humane Society and is majoring in elementary education.

Jennifer Paige Hoemke, 22, a '92 Farmington High School graduate and Wayne State University junior, was second runner up. Her sponsor was Contemporary Awards.

Hoemke was also given the talent award for achieving the highest score from judges in that portion of the competition. She sang "Vanilla Ice Cream" from a musical called "She Loves Me." She is a theatre

major with an emphasis on dance and vocal.

The daughter of Grant and Cheryl Hoemke chose the platform "Art literacy."

A thumbnail sketch of the other contestants:

Francesca Romeo, 18, sponsored by Luigi's of Farmington, a '95 graduate of Mercy High School and a student at Detroit College of Business. The Farmington Hills resident is the daughter of Josephine Payne.

See **WALK, A11**



KATHERINE MUEHLING

Mideast dance offers a closer look at culture

When a woman says she is a dancer, you probably think ballet or exotic. One type is poised and rigid, the other is viewed as cheap. But try telling people you're a Middle Eastern or Oriental dancer and see their faces form a confused look.

That's what happens when members of the western Detroit dance troupes Foreign Intrigue and Isis tell people what they do. That's because if they say they're belly dancers, most westerners get the wrong idea. Belly dancing was portrayed as something very sexual to the mass public first in old movies. Some new ones — not from the Middle East — were even added. The art of belly dancing has been under constant social criticism in the U.S. since its introduction by Little Egypt, a dancer, at the 1893 World Exposition, according to Najwa al-Qamar, a Middle Eastern dance instructor from Canton. Although Little Egypt danced wearing more clothing than present in today's workplace, her performance was too exotic for Victorian era morality to tolerate. The performers that followed added much to the dance's negative image.

What most people in this country don't know is that, aside from hip movements, belly dancing also includes a lot of beautiful, flowing arm movements and requires the proper facial

See **MIDEAST, A14**

Bavarian Village

Golf Clothing Clearance

50% Off



All Spring & Summer Collections Of Shirts, Shorts, Pants, Sweaters, Warm-Ups & Vests for Women & Men
Plus, Lots Of New Fall Arrivals At 30 to 50% Off!

STARTS THIS SATURDAY

OPEN SATURDAY 9-9 • SUNDAY 11-7 • DAILY 10-5
VISA • MASTERCARD • DISCOVER • AMERICAN EXPRESS • DINERS

A MID-SUMMER'S SIDEWALK SALE

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY
JULY 19 - 20

SAVE UP TO
75%
THROUGHOUT
SUMMIT PLACE MALL,
SUMMIT CROSSING WEST
AND SUMMIT NORTH