



CLAIRE FORD, Miss Black America

For Claire Ford, a 19-year-old beauty from Memphis, Tennessee, the end is almost here.

That is, the end of her reign as Miss Black America.

On August 18, at the Civic Center in Philadelphia, Pa., she will crown her successor in the national finals of the 11th Annual Miss Black America Pageant.

"I'm not disappointed that it's coming to an end," Claire says in her soft, southern drawl, "because I entered this knowing that it would be over in a year. So I'm not sad about it at all. I'm happy and grateful that I've had a chance to enjoy such an interesting and educational experience."

Claire won her title on September 9, 1977 in the national finals of the 10th Annual Miss Black America Pageant. The event was staged at the Civic Auditorium in Santa Monica, California and televised live over the NBC network. Claire, who stands 5'10", weighs 135 pounds and measures 34-25-37, competed against thirty other contestants from the United States and Puerto Rico.

Along with the title, she won \$10,000, two Hollywood screen tests and a role in the forthcoming sequel to ROOTS.

During her reign, Claire has made personal appearances in churches, on college campuses and on television talk shows throughout the United States. In February, she spent four weeks in Europe where she headlined her own show for the USO. She also guest-starred in a segment of the ABC-TV series, FANTASY ISLAND, playing a contestant in a beauty pageant.

Despite all the glamour and excitement, Claire says being Miss Black America hasn't changed her very much.

"No, I haven't really changed much," she says, "But my life has been faster paced than it was before. My perspective has been broadened, and I've seen things that I'd only read about before. Other than that, I haven't changed at all. I'm still at home with my mother and father, still washing dishes and still feeding the dog."

Before becoming Miss Black America, Claire was a sophomore majoring in English at Memphis State University. When her reign ends, she says, she intends to return to school to prepare for a career as an attorney.



CHARLES WRIGHT (left), assistant to the vice president for chapters of the March of Dimes, coordinates a summer intern program with collegians Duane Hume and Michael Bevins. The students are learning to develop materials for youth education programs directed at prevention of birth defects.

For most students, finding a rewarding way to spend summer vacation is a problem.

Not so for Michael Bivens, of Brooklyn, and Duane Hume, of Elmsford, N.Y. Youth education programs on prevention of birth defects is a priority for the voluntary health organization.

Both students will develop audiovisual and print materials for minority audiences that stress the March of Dimes mission. Birth defects are the nation's major child health problem. Their projects will focus on prenatal care for high-risk pregnant women, and parenting responsibilities for teen-age males.

In addition, the interns will staff March of Dimes exhibits at national conventions for the NAACP, the National Urban League, Phi Beta Sigma fraternity, and Zeta Phi Beta sorority.

Both young men agree that the internship program will help them in furthering their career goals. Mr. Bivens is a medical sociology major at Boston University. Mr. Hume will enter Morgan State College in Baltimore this fall, where he plans to major in Urban Affairs.

Coordinating the internship program is Charles Wright, assistant to the vice president for chapters for the March of Dimes. "Our purpose in working with these students is twofold," he says. "We want to make them aware of the national scope of birth defects -- and their impact upon the family and society, as well as teaching them practical skills that they can apply to their class work and future careers."

SDAS Meeting

The local office of the State Division for Aging Services reports that its Advisory Committee will meet on July 27 at 3:00 p.m., at the Las Vegas Senior Citizens Center. This is an exception and future meetings will revert to the usual day, the third Thursday of the month. The agenda for the meeting will center on the report of the sub-committee for legislation.

We appreciate your cooperation in this matter of helping the senior citizens in this area.

BUSINESS IN BLACK

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2 COLUMN 3

concern in the semi-conductor industry, is quoted, "They are out to slit our throats and we better recognize that and do something about it." The Japanese have made it their national goal to knife the United States in the semi-conductor technology industry and thus gain dominance of the world's computer and electronic markets.

American manufacturers cite the costly Japanese screening as only one of the many inequities they face in competing against the Japanese. The big Japanese semi-conductor market is closed to American manufacturers. This means fewer jobs in California and the U.S.

The Japanese government does not allow its domestic telephone service monopoly to buy from the U.S. Ma Bell does not have this restriction. The restriction should come from U.S. consumers who run the risk of increasing unemployment in this country by buying Japanese products. Black Americans for one should take note of no blacks need apply signs when they talk to a Toyota, Datsun or Sony salesman.

Arthritis Foundation

The Arthritis Foundation needs at least 25 volunteers to help with their booth at the Jaycees State Fair during the first week in August.

Hours are flexible, ranging from 8 a.m. to twelve midnight. Volunteers need only give a minimum of two hours of their time.

Help is needed in setting up and taking down the booth, and greeting the thousands of visitors who will stop at the booth daily to pick up many of the free pamphlets and mystic Grip Discs to aid arthritics, or to take the Arthritis Mini Quiz.

If you can help, please call the Arthritis Foundation at 739-9460 or come into our office located at 5030 Paradise Rd. Our doors are open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Dear Community Resident:
 You are invited to a SNEDC progress report and Community discussion, Monday, July 24, from 1:30-2:30 P.M., at the West-side Library.
 This discussion follows our policy of maintaining an open line of communication with residents of the Special Impact Area (SIA.)
 For more information, contact:
 Denise Ransom,
 Public Information Officer
 647-3110

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