

Mother of baby contest winner gives green light to Junior Miss

To the editor of The Herald: In response to the letters printed in The Herald, I find it difficult to believe we have a few bigoted people such as the ones who have written these letters in our beautiful community of Halton Hills. I find it not only appalling and disgusting to hear from people such as these, who obviously have a great deal wrong with their way of thinking, not only morally, but mentally as well. As a mother of a previous Baby Contest winner, I did

find it gratifying and made me extremely proud to find others could see the innocence, trust and beauty that shines from within any child, be he or she Black, Yellow, Big, Small and above all

those less fortunate little beauties. Beginning in the day of even Caesar competitions of many kinds have been held throughout our Universe, and to this day, even our

countries go to great length, both physically and financially to achieve the fame and prestige attached to world-wide competitions. What mother or father for that matter does not con-

sider her child, the most beautiful in the world, because to them they are. Again I say, to Rita and Jim Barrett, go ahead with your plans for a contest such as Miss Halton Hills and

your Baby Contest and oh yes, by the way, my granddaughter was also a Baby Contest entrant (not a winner, mind you though she received a token gesture which she, her mother and myself admire occasionally with great pride.)

I might add also that neither my daughter, nor my granddaughter suffer any psychological effects, so to you so-called people I say this is what is wrong with our world today: too many people of high society, prestigious positions, continually threatening to undermine and take away our freedom of choice, be it right or wrong. Exploitation? Our society is full of it, from government right on down, but I see no comparison here either in the minds or hearts of the benefactors of this novel idea for your community.

If this is the case, then our system is full of it, from Music Recitals, Oratorical Competition (Dominion wide) Sports, Professional and Amateur, Lotteries, Employers, you name it, my friend, it is there.

I would suggest you expend your mental exertions where it will do the most good and leave our children and us alone. We are not forcing you to compete or observe, so what may I ask is your gain? Political ambition or egotism?

Yours sincerely
Ellen Napier
Georgetown

Letters to the Editor

Amazed at beauty contest outrage, feels zeal better directed elsewhere

To the editor of The Herald: As a resident of Georgetown, I am absolutely amazed at the letters and the headlines in the newspapers resulting from the children's beauty contest proposed for the fall fair. I am neither a supporter nor an opponent of beauty contests of any age, but the vehemence, the "shocked outrage" and the lofty philosophy expressed in some of the published letters

really amused me. One would think that the entire juvenile population of the town was going to be scarred for life by the simple running of a contest! I agree that children should not be taught that physical appeal is the most important thing in life, but since most of us appreciate beauty, whether it be physical, musical or artistic, surely there is no

more harm in conducting a beauty contest than an art contest? Are those who immerse their talented children in music practice, or schedule their whole lives around a child's talent for sport not just as exploitive as those who would enter their child in a beauty contest to show off its charm and good looks? Competition is a part of

human nature, it will be encountered by children throughout their whole lives, and it has contributed to standards of excellence in every field more than any other single factor. I believe there are many contests and competitions run at the fall fair for both children and adults and I don't see any impassioned protests against the needlework competitions

because some people were born with 10 thumbs, or the horse show because not all have the opportunity to learn to ride. I see pages of newspaper devoted to sport, and winners are touted on every page, but I don't see fiery letters devoted to the damage done to children who aren't interested, or for whom it is not physically possible to be a winner.

For heaven's sake, let's get things into proportion and stop stirring up a tempest over something which only affects those who want to be affected. If all that zeal was directed towards some constructive improvement of the quality of community life, or the abolishment of some truly alarming element such as the drug problem in the schools, I might be able to take the writers seriously.

Yours truly,
Pearl Guthrie (Mrs.),
52, Chelvin Drive,
Georgetown.

Beauty competition preliminaries at Elk's Lodge September 7

To the editor of The Herald: Due to overwhelming response we've had from parents interested in entering their daughters in the Elks Club's Junior Miss Royal Purple and Junior Miss Elk competitions, to be held at the

Elks Lodge this Sunday (September 7) as preliminaries to the Junior Miss Halton Hills pageant, we ask that all entrants contact us no later than this Friday. The early notice will give all entrants time to prepare for the 2 p.m. contests, which will

select two Elk-sponsored competitors for the Halton Hills pageant, and give the club time to distribute gifts among all involved entrants. We will be picking three girls - first, second and third - for the Miss Royal Purple title and three for the Miss Elk title, for a total of six winners, but each and every entrant will receive many gifts for participating.

We have attracted much attention from the surrounding areas, but would like to give those in the immediate area first opportunity to enter. Please phone 877-4351 or 455-8117. Our competitions' judges will be the ladies of the Royal Purple and the men of the Elks who have no children entered of their own and who are not related to any contestant. Despite the substantial early interest shown, we ask each and every parent to come out and support these young ladies and enjoy a coffee on judging day this weekend. William E. Oates.

Vocal minority stopping contest?

To the editor of The Herald: It appears that a vocal minority is trying to stop the Junior Miss Beauty Pageant. From the names and addresses, it appears to me that many of the writers are known to one another and that the Pageant is the object of an organized letter-writing campaign.

As one of the silent majority who has remained silent for too long, I wish to state that they do not represent my views or probably those of the vast majority of Georgetown residents and I trust that Mr. and Mrs. Barrett will not be intimidated by them.

With letters sprinkled with phrases like "sex objects" and "non-sexist" the women's lib creed is being faithfully parroted. All that remains now is for other vociferous minority groups to jump on the bandwagon.

Yours truly,
I. Nolan,
RR1, Georgetown.

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