

For Modeling Contest

# Nicholson Goes to New York

Diane Nicholson, an East Palo Alto resident and a legal secretary for Kroff & Associates in Palo Alto, will be leaving for New York this month to compete in an international modeling contest sponsored by the American Modeling Association of America International.

The annual modeling convention is being held April 22-26 at the Waldorf Astoria hotel where the models will compete in three areas: runway, photo poses, and television commercials. The judges are from the top modeling agencies in New York, such as Ford and Wilhemina, and prizes range from trophies to cash awards of up to \$1000 each for the male and female grand prize winners.

Twenty-three-year-old Nicholson, a 1975 graduate of Woodside High School, started modeling as a teenager for fashion shows her mother held in neighborhood homes for selling lines of clothing and beauty products. Then she started professional training at John Robert Powers modeling school in Palo Alto.

Nicholson is now affiliated with Scott's modeling agency in San Francisco and Miss Lorraine's in Los Altos. For the past one and one-half years, she has also modeled for California Treasures in Atherton, which features "wearable art," articles of clothing that are actually pieces of art.

Beauty pageant honors have helped Nicholson build her modeling career. She was named one of the top 10 finalists and winner of the best monologue in the 1974 Our Junior

Miss pageant; 1975 Miss East Palo Alto; Miss Congeniality and Dream Girl in the 1975 San Mateo County Beauty Pageant; and Miss Positivity in the 1979 San Jose Miss Black America contest.

Nicholson has been working as a legal secretary for one and one-half years and plans to pursue it as a second career. But her primary interest is in becoming a professional model.

"I've always had a flair for clothes, and I love showing clothes," she said.

Besides the prizes in the New York event, the audience includes representatives from modeling agencies, casting agencies, and fashion magazines, so the contest provides the exposure to potential employers that could result in modeling jobs.

"I'm looking for a contract," Nicholson admits. "I've been doing this too long to go (to New York) for nothing."

"I have trophies and thousands of ribbons. Now I'm looking for steady work." She named the New York modeling agencies of Ford and Wilhemina as her goals.

Nicholson will compete in the three main events of the contest. In the runway competition, female participants in daytime dresses and male contestants in business suits model their outfits as they walk and turn down a ramp. Judges consider runway technique and personal appearance.

In the photography category, fe-



Diane Nicholson of East Palo Alto will be competing in an international modeling contest in New York City this month.

male models in black tights and leotards and male models in casual outfits must strike at least three poses for the camera within 10 seconds.

For the television event, each entrant must present a 30-second commercial.

A New York Preview featuring Lorraine's models in the same competitions as the ones in New York will be held April 12 at the Chinese Community Theater in Palo Alto. Call Lorraine's at 948-2211 for further information.

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