

Shelley Kiser captures Miss Oregon title

By Troy Maben
Of The Print

"I think I have a different look than some of the other girls. I think my personality made up for whatever I lacked in beauty," said Shelley Kiser, the new Miss Oregon who will be heading for the Miss USA contest at the end of this month in Tennessee. A second-year student at Clackamas Community College, Kiser was selected the winner last month in Portland from a group of outstanding young women.

Beauty-type pageants are not new to Miss Kiser. She has appeared in more than 11 pageants over the years since she was 13 years old. Her first pageant was sponsored by Montgomery Ward where they picked fifteen girls to be what they called "pace setter models." She was picked for one of the top three positions, but Kiser said "they wouldn't tell me which one of the top three I was chosen for." After getting the attention from her first pageant, Shelley got more interested and involved with contests and finally achieved her biggest accomplishment, the Miss Oregon title.

Being in pageants over the years have been Shelley's own decisions, and she insists that she has even had to beg her parents (Royce, basketball coach here at the College, and Patricia Kiser) to let her participate. "I think what started it (her participation in pageants) was that I was always real good on stage. Even at age 13 I felt comfortable on stage. It was easy for me to pick up the modeling turns and the different things they had us do in

the modeling and self-improvement classes, so I felt real comfortable and I had a lot of real comfort in that area."

Kiser said her family was a big help, especially her mother. "My mother has been very helpful, I've always been spoiled. She's always been there to

adds his support, but in a different way. "He doesn't make a big deal of it. In fact, my dad and my little brother swear up and down they're there to keep me in my place," she said.

Kiser's preparation for a pageant is nearly as interesting as the contest itself. She took

The last thing she did was a kind of mental preparation for herself. Just a few days before the contest she went to her fitness classes as usual with no makeup, hair unfixed, and in her sweat suit, and she would stay that way until it was nearly time to go to the pageant. So when she looked in the mirror after she was ready to leave, she saw a beautiful girl, or rather as she explained, a much better-looking girl than had been looking back at her from the mirror for the last few days.

Kiser was in the preliminaries for the Miss Oregon/Miss America pageant, but didn't make it into the finals because she felt her talent was not up to what it needed to be. "I was competing against girls who were professionals at their talent," she said.

She was ready to quit altogether after viewing her talent scores. Fortunately, one of the judges called her and told her she ought to try out for the other Miss Oregon. Her first reaction was "NO, that's for dummies. They don't have talent, they don't have to do anything, they just sit up there and look good--and that's it!" He convinced her, however, that if an intelligent girl got up there she had as good a chance as anyone else and could prove everybody wrong by being pretty and smart at the same time.

Kiser also explained the difference between the two Miss Oregon contests. She said the Miss Oregon/Miss America contest is essentially a talent

and beauty contest, whereas the Miss Oregon/Miss USA is primarily a beauty contest.

Along with (as she described) her wholesome appearance, it was the intelligent part of her that won her the Miss Oregon crown. The impromptu questions, which came after the individual interviews, evening gown and swimsuit competitions, were the deciding factor in her winning. "This was to show whether you had some intelligence, or just to see if you could speak . . . I think that is what won it for me," Kiser said.

In the future, Kiser explained she would like to go into fashion buying, and if she wins the Miss USA title possibly acting. But for right now she is concentrating on the national contest, which is coming up at the end of this month in Tennessee. There she will spend three weeks competing in three individual pageants for the title.

The first part is the costume contest, where contestants don costumes representing their home state. Kiser will be a Christmas tree. The second will be the preliminary contest for the big televised pageant, which will be just like the televised one, but with all of the girls from every state. The third pageant on May 12 will be televised and will focus on the 12 finalists from the preliminaries.

What happens if Kiser wins the national title? She will travel around the country representing the pageant and enjoying the luxury of the title, which includes \$70,000 in cash, a fur coat, and an apartment in New York.

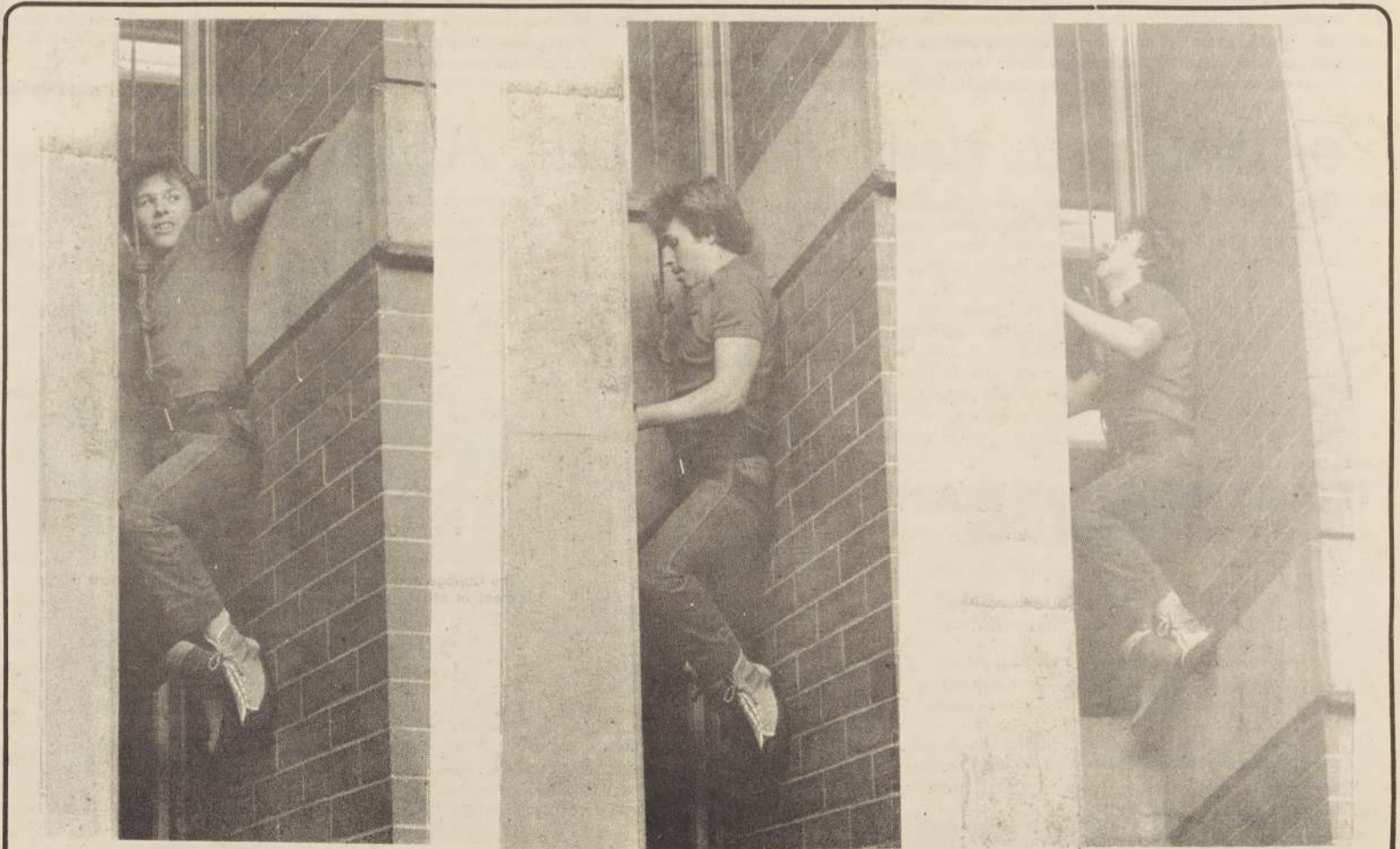


Shelley Kiser

Photos by Troy Maben

clean my clothes, because when you're getting ready for a pageant the last couple of weeks are just hectic. You don't have time to do anything, you really need a second hand, and she has always been there." Shelley's father also

health and fitness classes; "it cut down on the inches," and she continuously practiced mock interviews, "so when I got on stage, or in front of the judges, I was already able to answer all the questions they would ask."



STUDENT SCALES SIDE of Randall Hall last week as part of Gary Nelson's mountaineering class.

Photos by Breit Bigham

