

4 queens crowned Friday, Saturday

Twelve young women from the Gresham, Sandy, Clackamas, and Portland areas will be vying for the titles of Miss Mt. Hood Area, Miss Metro East, Miss Clackamas County, and Miss Multnomah County at this year's two night pageant program which will be held on June 14th and 15th at the David Douglas High School Performing Arts Center each night at 8:00 PM.

This is the first step to the title of Miss America. Winners from these pageants will go on to compete in the 1986 Miss Oregon Pageant...with the winner of that pageant going on to compete for the title of Miss America.

Entries opened in October, and young women between the ages of 17 and 25 applied. In March a preliminary pageant was held to select the top contestants who would go on to the semi-finals.

The contestants have been practicing since March, working on their interviews, talent, and modeling for the swimsuit and evening gown portion of the competition. Their practice day normally starts with a half hour of aerobics, taught by Michelle Middleton. Then it's on to production practice where they are taught the numbers they will be doing in the show by the choreographer, Sally Mack. From there they go on to talent, swimsuit, and evening gown practice, polishing their strengths and learning how to



overcome their weaknesses. Then it's into a mock interview session with Dan and Chris MacDonald, and various people from the community who have been asked to help. They also receive help on makeup, hair, color analysis, and even a lesson on personal analysis (which helps them learn about themselves and the personalities of others).

Contestants also help raise the money necessary to put on this program by working on the annual fund raisers, which this year included a car wash, paper drive, dunk tank, and Family Fun Night. Each girl has also been busy selling tickets for the pageant show in hopes of having a large "rooting section" to help spur them along during the competition.

Money received from fund raising activities are used for

scholarships, awards, and pageant expenses incurred. No one working with this non-profit pageant is paid, all time is volunteered, and there is no entry fee charged for entering this program.

Funding of the pageant program is made possible by the continued support of the community who help by their donations of money or merchandise, and through the fund raising activities. Sponsors are a big part of the pageant program which each girl is asked to help with, this however is not mandatory, and if the young woman is unable to find a sponsor the pageant finds one for her.

Vicki Gunderson, President, and founder of the Miss Mt. Hood Area Scholarship Pageant, Inc. says, "each girl is asked to help with projects, as we feel it is important in building their character. I always tell the parents that their daughters are going to learn more than how to walk, stand, sit and talk...we are trying to also teach them responsibility. Helping with fund raisers, and even selling advertising for the program book helps build responsibility and character in the individual besides helping them with their interview. After all, if you can ask a total stranger to buy or donate something you will learn to handle any interview situation, which in turn will help in landing a job someday."