

*MARIAN Schooling*

**WHEELCHAIR AWARENESS FOUNDATION**  
presents



**1983 PAGEANT**  
**August 28, 1982**  
**8:00 p.m.**

## *Miss Wheelchair America*



*much success with the pageant*



John Coury  
Riviera Hotel, Las Vegas  
Ohio Reservations Office  
Sheraton Columbus  
50 N. 3rd Street - Lobby  
Columbus, Ohio 43215  
Telephone (614) 221-0878





In September 1971 an organization was established that would exist to bring back into the mainstream of society, a group of individuals who had been totally and systematically excluded. It was an organization that would affirm the fact that impaired mobility and intelligence are not mutually exclusive. It was an organization that would affirm the fact that the only difference between a wheelchair person and an able-bodied person is the wheelchair.

It was Miss Wheelchair America.

It was the dawn of awakening for an unaware and discriminating public, and the beginning of a new barrier-free existence of equality for hundreds of thousands of handicapped individuals.

A Columbus, Ohio physiatrist established Miss Wheelchair America as a forum for the promotion of the achievements and needs of the handicapped. He had devoted his career to the rehabilitation and treatment of the functionally impaired individual and was well aware of the capabilities, strengths, talents, courage and determination of the handicapped. Miss Wheelchair America is sponsored by the newly formed Wheelchair Awareness Foundation, and is a non-profit program coordinated by volunteers who are dedicated to increasing public awareness so that the disabled will be able to lead full, productive and meaningful lives.

The Miss Wheelchair America Pageant is a competition to select the most accomplished and articulate spokesperson for more than 14 million disabled Americans. The selected representative must be able to communicate both the needs and accomplishments of her constituency to the general public, the business community, and the legislature. She is charged with the continuing effort to educate the public regarding the dignity, productiveness, and basic value of the handicapped. She also assumes responsibility for the ongoing effort of eliminating architectural and attitudinal barriers that prevent the disabled from assuming their rightful place in society.

As Miss Wheelchair America, her duties are numerous. Attending the President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped and the National Wheelchair Games are only a couple of the numerous events in which she participates. Past winners have included among their accomplishments, serving as Executive Chairperson of the National Rehabilitation Association, as a member of the Governor's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped, and as Secretary of the Governor's Commission for the White House Council on the Handicapped Individual.

Miss Wheelchair America travels widely each year and visits advocacy groups, makes public appearances and conducts television, radio and print interviews, promoting awareness of the needs of the disabled. She also informs the able-bodied public of the achievements of the physically disabled and promotes Miss Wheelchair America, Inc. and the Wheelchair Awareness Foundation, Inc., by assisting in the establishment of pageant committees in all states.

In order to successfully carry out her duties and responsibilities, the individual chosen to be Miss Wheelchair America must be intelligent, self-confident, highly motivated, poised and articulate. Judging for the event is performed by a panel of professionals who base their decisions on criteria established by the national committee.

The judging criteria is divided into three separate categories, the most important of which is Personal Accomplishment, comprising forth percent of the final score. Education after the onset of disability, professional position or goal, and adjustment to disability are some of the considerations for the Personal Accomplishment Category.

Thirty percent of each contestant's score is in the category of Personality and deals with conversational ability, self-expression, and social confidence. A final thirty percent comes from the category of Appearance, and includes personal appearance as well as poise.

Judging takes place over the entire four-day event. Contestants participate in a series of interviews and workshops, during which they are judged for their accomplishments and their participation according to the criteria. Prior to the night of the pageant, the judges tally the scores collected over the first three days and choose ten semi-finalists. Five finalists are then chosen to compete during a question and answer session during the pageant itself. On the basis of the answers given, the judges choose the new Miss Wheelchair America. Both her award, as well as the awards for Miss Congeniality and Miss Achievement, are than presented to the winners.





# MISS WHEELCHAIR AMERICA, INC.

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President-Elect .....	Marge Chmielewski
Secretary .....	Judith K. Ellis
Treasurer .....	Charles Puckett

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Ray Cheever	Marian Lucas	Ronald St. Pierre, Ph.D.
John J. Coury	Jennie Lee Morgan	Roger Tackett
Ruth Cullifer	G. Michael Nader	Vivienne S. Thomson
William Ebert	Carl Papai	Luis J. Flores-Vilar, M.D.
Steve Enich	Sherry Repscher	Sandee Woerner
	William Rittenhouse	

## 1982 MWA PAGEANT COMMITTEE

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Pageant Committee Assistant .....	Mary Lauffer
Pageant Nurse .....	Pat Kistner, R.N.
Transportation Coordinator .....	Susan Michener
U.S. Navy Coordinator .....	PN1 John Wilson, U.S.N.
Workshop Coordinator .....	Jane Grady

*Good Luck  
and I hope there  
are Buzzie &  
Betty things  
to come!  
Love,  
Susan*

## THE JUDGING COMMITTEE

---

### **Tom Gravitt**

Patient Representative  
Cardinal Hill Hospital  
Lexington, Kentucky

### **Rebecca Jackson, M.D.**

University Hospital  
Columbus, Ohio

### **Joseph J. Margalis**

Handicap Accessibility  
Consultant/Engineer  
Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania

### **Mrs. Vivienne S. Thomson**

Licensed Social Worker and Supervisor  
of Handicapped Affairs for the  
Boston Housing Authority  
Boston, Massachusetts

### **Willard I. Walker**

Judge, Circuit Court  
Richmond, Virginia

### *Alternate:*

### **Claudia Bergquist**

Counselor, Handicapped Student Services  
Columbus Technical Institute  
Columbus, Ohio



Marian Schooling  
1982



Marian Schooling  
Miss Wheelchair America  
1982

*"The privilege of being named Miss Wheelchair America 1981-1982 has been a very exciting, challenging, and enjoyable one. My travels, public appearances, and speaking engagements have brought exposure to both me and the disabled population.*

*I have been permitted to travel across the United States, speaking to people, personally and through the media, about the needs of the disabled. I have met with legislators, state, county and local officials, regarding the needs of their disabled constituents.*

*My message to the public has concerned attitudinal barriers. Attitudinal barriers can be more emotionally restricting and physically limiting than any physical barriers. My experiences have exposed me to a variety of people and opinions and have helped me to grow as a person. Disabled people have made tremendous advances in the past decade, but there are still many barriers and obstacles to overcome.*

*The response and support during the past year has been overwhelming. Public and private agencies, officials, the media, and citizens have been very positive and helpful in assisting and in delivering my message. My reign would not have been as enjoyable nor as successful without this support."*

Marian Schooling works as a senior health educator in the area of high blood pressure for the Baltimore City Health Department, a position she has held since 1979. She was graduated with a bachelor of science degree in community health education from California State University at Long Beach, in 1979, and plans to pursue her master's degree in public health.

She enjoys the theatre, sewing, gourmet cooking and traveling. Her family, all residing in Los Angeles, California, includes her father, a municipal court judge; her mother, an occupational therapist; three younger sisters; and one younger brother. Marian was born in Santa Monica, California.

Marian's achievements since the onset of her disability, include serving as Commissioner, Commission on Youth for Los Angeles, California, and on the Board of Directors of the Rancho Los Amigos Hospital Patient Welfare Fund and the Huntington Park Symphony. She also received an award for outstanding support of California Youth Gives a Damn, and placed first in the women's division wheelchair tennis tourney.

Best of luck to you Marian, in all of your future endeavors!



JAMES A. RHODES  
GOVERNOR

THE STATE OF OHIO  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
STATE HOUSE, COLUMBUS 43215

MISS WHEELCHAIR AMERICA PAGEANT:

As Governor of the State of Ohio, I am pleased to welcome all participants and guests to the eleventh annual Miss Wheelchair America Pageant.

We in Ohio feel fortunate to play such a key role in a program as important as Miss Wheelchair America. Tonight when Miss Wheelchair America 1983 is crowned and she begins her year-long reign as spokesperson for the entire handicapped movement, we can feel proud that Ohio is the birthplace of this significant program.

I'm sure that all of Ohio joins with me in supporting Miss Wheelchair America in her efforts to create a barrier-free world for the handicapped.

Please accept my personal best wishes for an enjoyable visit to Columbus.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "James A. Rhodes".

James A. Rhodes  
Governor







TOM MOODY  
MAYOR

# CITY OF COLUMBUS OHIO

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

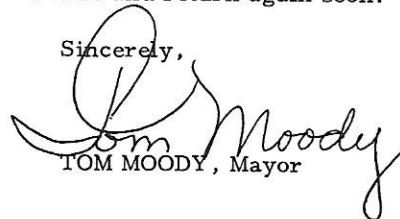
MISS WHEELCHAIR AMERICA PAGEANT, INC.

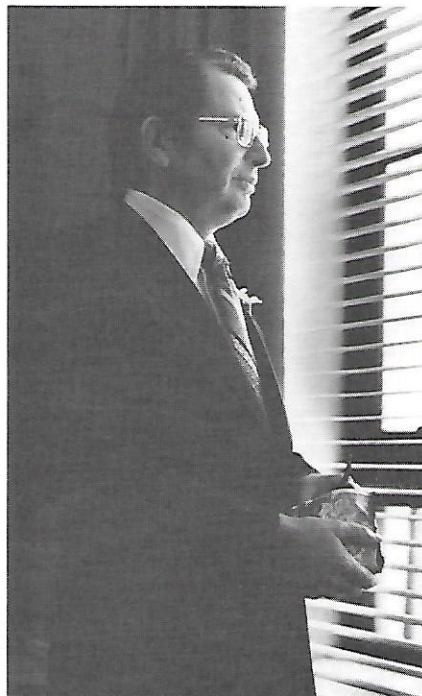
Columbus is truly honored to be the home of Miss Wheelchair America and to welcome each of you to our city for the Eleventh Annual Pageant.

Your Pageant of Achievement is one of the highlights for handicapped people everywhere. Through your combined efforts, millions of people will learn of the accomplishments and abilities of handicapped people.

Please enjoy your visit to Columbus and return again soon!

Sincerely,

  
TOM MOODY, Mayor



# BANQUET PROGRAM

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## MASTER OF CEREMONIES

**Bob Grossi**

## WELCOME

**President Mary Lou Humphreys**  
**Wheelchair Awareness Foundation, Inc.**

## INTRODUCTIONS

**Parade of Contestants**

**Head Table**

**Honored Guests**

## INVOCATION

**Marge Chmielewski**  
**Miss Wheelchair America 1979**

## DINNER

## ENTERTAINMENT

**June Gilchrist**

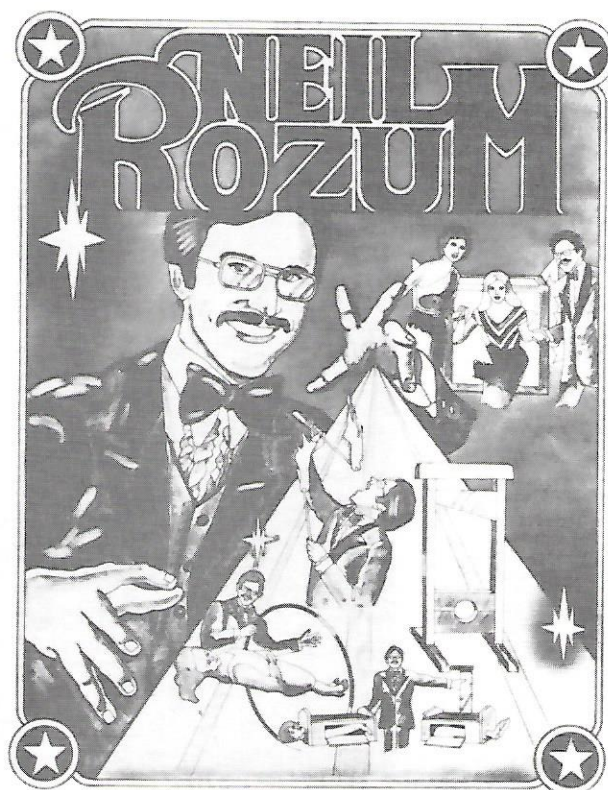
**Magic by Neil Rozum**

**Assisted by Helen Houghton and Debbie Brewster**

## DEMONSTRATION

**Disco on Wheels**

**Mary Verdi and David Brewster**







### **Robert R. Grossi**

Miss Wheelchair America, Inc. is pleased to welcome back Bob Grossi for the second year as Master of Ceremonies for the Miss Wheelchair America pageant.

Presently the noon weatherman for WBNS 10TV and host of "In the Know," Grossi has been involved in broadcasting for the past fifteen years in various capacities. Most recently, before joining WBNS-TV, he was an announcer/personality of WBNS AM/FM, doing afternoon drive and middays during his two and a half years there.

Before coming to Columbus in June, 1976, Grossi was not only a radio personality, but also a weekday evening weatherman at WCHS-TV in Charleston, West Virginia. After three years in Charleston, he came to Columbus to join WBNS-AM.

Born in Providence, Rhode Island, Grossi got his start in broadcasting working for WGNG-AM and WPRO-AM and WPRI-TV. Also while in Rhode Island, he received a degree in Business Administration from Johnson and Wales College of Business.

Bob is married to Edie Grossi and is the proud father of a daughter, Kristen Beth (Krissy). Apart from broadcasting, Bob enjoys golf and tennis, and is also very involved in community projects, currently serving on the Board of Trustees of the Crippled Children's Center of Central Ohio, an Easter Seals Agency.

# PAGEANT PROGRAM

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NATIONAL ANTHEM  
**U.S. Navy Color Guard**

MASTER OF CEREMONIES  
**Bob Grossi**

INTRODUCTIONS  
**Parade of Contestants**  
**Judges and Judging Criteria**  
**Marian Schooling/Miss Wheelchair America 1982**

AWARDS  
**Miss Congeniality**  
**Miss Achievement**  
**Five Finalists**

PRESENTATION OF  
MISS WHEELCHAIR AMERICA 1983

RECEPTION FOR  
MISS WHEELCHAIR AMERICA 1983  
**Pinnacle Room - 21st Floor**

ESCORTS  
**Courtesy of Navy Recruiting District,  
Columbus, Ohio**

ORCHESTRA  
**Joe Grant Orchestra**

ENTERTAINMENT  
**Rob Reider of the  
Bob Braun Show**





### **Rob Reider**

Rob Reider's overwhelming success last year as entertainer for the 10th annual pageant necessitated our asking him back again! Miss Wheelchair America, Inc. is delighted to welcome Rob Reider for his second year with the Miss Wheelchair America pageant.

Reider is a staff singer on "The Bob Braun Show," a daily, 90-minute, live and syndicated talk-variety program. He also acts as occasional host and interviewer on the program. Reider has made numerous appearances as soloist and guitarist with the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, and is owner of Brightsides Audio, a broadcast audio location, recording and sound reinforcement company.

Please join the 1983 Miss Wheelchair America pageant in extending a warm welcome to Mr. Rob Reider.

# INTRODUCING OUR CONTESTANTS

*Marian,  
you're set  
a good example  
for the lucky lady  
who follows!  
Thanks for a  
year of hard  
work for all  
of us. Love,  
Barb*



**Barbara F. Crozier**  
**MISS WHEELCHAIR ALABAMA**

Barbara F. Crozier, of Goodwater, Alabama, is a wife, mother and grandmother. She has been active in community projects including fund raising committee chairman and coordinator of Mother's March, secretary of a state senate campaign, and organizer of a support group for sufferers of premenstrual syndrome. She was selected as one of the Outstanding Young Women of America, and participated in FORCES, a group promoting awareness of the handicapped individual. Barbara graduated with high honors as the University of Alabama's first graduating educator in a wheelchair, and is also an accomplished poet and author. "Life presents opportunities, not guarantees. Each day offers the opportunity for happiness, growth, service and fulfillment."



**Augustella A. Wrightsell**  
**MISS WHEELCHAIR CHICAGO**

Augustella A. Wrightsell, of Chicago, Illinois, is an executive secretary at Chicago Osteopathic Hospital. Her first ambition is to obtain a doctorate in psychology. Augustella has done volunteer work for Schwab Rehabilitation Institute, Congressman Harold Washington, Operation PUSH, and Vincennes Plaza where she resides. She is the mother of four children, and is a member of West Point Baptist Church, where she taught Sunday school, and was a member of the choir. "My philosophy of life is to live to the fullest, enjoying every awakening moment. To live close to God and treat your fellow man the way you would like to be treated yourself."



**Deborah Jean Kane**  
**MISS WHEELCHAIR FLORIDA**

Deborah Jean Kane of Orlando, Florida, is currently self employed as an art teacher in her own studio. She has published her autobiography, "The Beauty of a Thorn", going on tour to promote the book. She received certificates of merit from Kiwanis Club, Rotary, Optimist and American Legion and has completed college accredited courses in Bible prophecy, certified by Moody Bible College. Deborah was honored with the keys of two cities given to her by the mayors of Orlando, Florida, and St. Albans, West Virginia. She volunteers as an art teacher at the Lucerne Spinal Cord Injury Unit. "In order to live a fulfilling life, we have to like ourselves and learn to go beyond our disability to our inner self."



**Lisa Michelle Cape**  
**MISS WHEELCHAIR GEORGIA**

Lisa Michelle Cape, of Norcross, Georgia, is a June graduate of Berkmar High School, and is currently employed as a receptionist and typist. She has been involved in various high school activities, and served as class president for two years. She was previously named Miss Berkmar 1982 (and Miss Congeniality), and was recently presented The Independent Living Skills Award by the Foundation for Exceptional Children. Lisa plans to attend Emory University at Oxford in August, to pursue a career in Law or Marketing. "The way things are today, you can achieve just about any goal that you set for yourself."



Best  
Wishes  
Nancy  
(Illinois 82)



Nancy J. Meeker  
MISS WHEELCHAIR ILLINOIS

Nancy J. Meeker of Galesburg, Illinois, is self employed, owning and operating her own answering service. Some of her hobbies include cooking, painting, reading and writing poetry. Nancy has received her associates degree in Accounting from the Carl Sandburg College and has served as president of a service group called P.A.C. Nancy has been involved in community efforts, helping with a radiothon to sponsor a new van for the handicapped, as well as persuading District 205 to install a much needed elevator in the area high school. "We as people never stop learning and growing from each other. We are ordinary people with feelings and minds, too."

Good luck  
there gal - you  
had a great year!  
you can now  
relax!  
Terrie



Terri Lynn Seitz  
MISS WHEELCHAIR MARYLAND

Terri Lynn Seitz, of Towson, Maryland, has taught for the Baltimore County Board of Education for eight years. She received her B.S. in elementary education from Towson State University, and her M.S. in General Education from Johns Hopkins University. Terri has done volunteer peer counseling to young women at a nearby hospital, and is a member of the recently formed Mayor's Educational Commission on the Advancement of the Disabled in Baltimore. She is also involved with a group called FUTR, Families United for Trauma Rehabilitation, affiliated with the University of Maryland Hospital. "I am an advocate of goal-setting, being active and keeping lines of communication open. By maintaining this philosophy and way of life, I feel I can be a role model to many people; that disabled people are productive."



Ethel Powers  
MISS WHEELCHAIR MONTANA

Ethel Powers of Billings, Montana, is the mother of three and also the grandmother of three children. She attended Billings Vocational-Technical Center, and has been active in lobbying for handicapped parking in downtown Billings. She helped to found the Handicap Advocacy Group in 1979, and was named to the Independent Living Advisory Board in 1982. She has received training about Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and hopes to arouse public awareness about handicapped problems and concerns. "My philosophy of life is live and let live. You can't possibly understand other people's thinking until you know exactly why they live as they do. So make no judgements."

Best wishes  
Ethel

Don Milson  
best I wish you  
and I love you and  
you are just  
great.  
Donna



Connie Browning  
MISS WHEELCHAIR NEVADA

Connie Browning of Sparks, Nevada, works as a distributor for Brite Music, and has also written a book, "Forever Roses", to be published soon. She enjoys theatre and is a drama major at the University of New Mexico. Swimming is her favorite hobby and she was responsible for starting a swimming program for the disabled in Carson, Nevada. Her ambition in life is to help mothers adjust to being disabled, and to form a creative drama school for the handicapped. "There is a time for all things. With a disability, we have a rare gift to reach out and touch the world. By each of us helping the other, with our talents, peace and love can come to the world."



Thanks for  
being a good  
friend to all us  
girls these  
past few  
days.  
Sherry  
Lovette



Dear Marian,  
I was very pleased  
to meet you.  
The Pageant has  
been a wonderful  
experience for me.  
Good luck in  
all your ventures  
you terrific!  
Mary V.



**Sherry McAlister Lovette**  
**MISS WHEELCHAIR NORTH CAROLINA**

Sherry McAlister Lovette of Wilmington, North Carolina, is a full-time volunteer, graduating from Mars Hill College with a B.A. in elementary education. She was previously a first grade teacher, choir director, and pianist at Bragtown Schools and Grady Brown Elementary. She is a member and treasurer of the Board of Directors for YWCA, a junior member of Tri-County Medical Auxiliary, and a member of the Committee for Services to Disabled. Sherry is also a member of the Board of Directors Association for Retarded Citizens and a member of the Steering Committee for North Carolina Alliance for Disabled and Concerned Citizens. "Life is a gift to be accepted with enthusiasm. This helps provide courage to face challenges that are part of this gift."

**Mary R. Verdi**  
**MISS WHEELCHAIR OHIO**

Mary Verdi, of Willoughby Hills, Ohio is an attendant care coordinator for Services for Independent Living. She currently serves on the Lake County Mental Health Board, The Easter Seals Board, and is involved with Advocates for Disabled Ohioans and The National Spinal Cord Injury Foundation. Mary enjoys public speaking and writing, and her hobbies include oil painting, singing, dancing and video games. She has developed a style of disco dancing with the wheelchair, and was recently chosen among the finalists for the television show "Disco Fever." "I feel that each of us should strive for perfection. Perfection should be explained as the best we can possibly achieve."



Marian,  
you will be  
hand steps "to follow"  
in - Love,  
Maureen

**Maureen Butler**  
**MISS WHEELCHAIR OKLAHOMA**

Maureen Butler, of Norma, Oklahoma, attended Tulsa Junior College and the University of Oklahoma. Her ambition is to be managing director of a theatre company especially designed to advance the disabled as performers and technicians. Maureen was the founding member of the Oklahoma Coalition of Citizens with Disabilities and now serves as the Arts and Humanities Chairman of that group. Her volunteer experiences include Easter Seal Society, Tulsa Mayor's Committee for Employment of the Handicapped, and The Francis E. Willard Home for Girls. "As I travel through this life, I have a very sincere obligation to touch as many lives as I can positively."

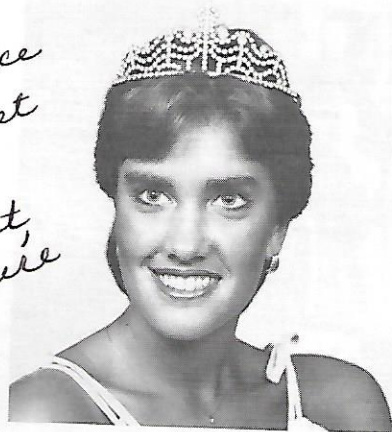


*With Love from Jannette Lebron Acezedo*

Jannette Lebron Acezedo  
MISS WHEELCHAIR PUERTO RICO  
Photo and bio not available

*Mirana,  
It's so nice  
to have meet  
you & you've  
really taught  
me alot. You're  
truly a  
beautiful  
person!*

*Love,  
Mariann  
Merritt*



Mariann Merritt  
MISS WHEELCHAIR SOUTH CAROLINA

Mariann Merritt of Westminster, South Carolina, is a 1982 graduate of Oakway High School, and is currently a part-time secretary for a real estate development firm. In high school she served as president of both the Student Council and Fellowship of Christian Athletes during her senior year, and was also her high school beauty pageant queen. Her hobbies include basketball and track, for which she has received many awards. Mariann is interested in fashion merchandising and teaching handicapped children. "I'm on a "natural high" and I want to live my life with this philosophy. I'm happy, contented, and have a positive attitude about my future."



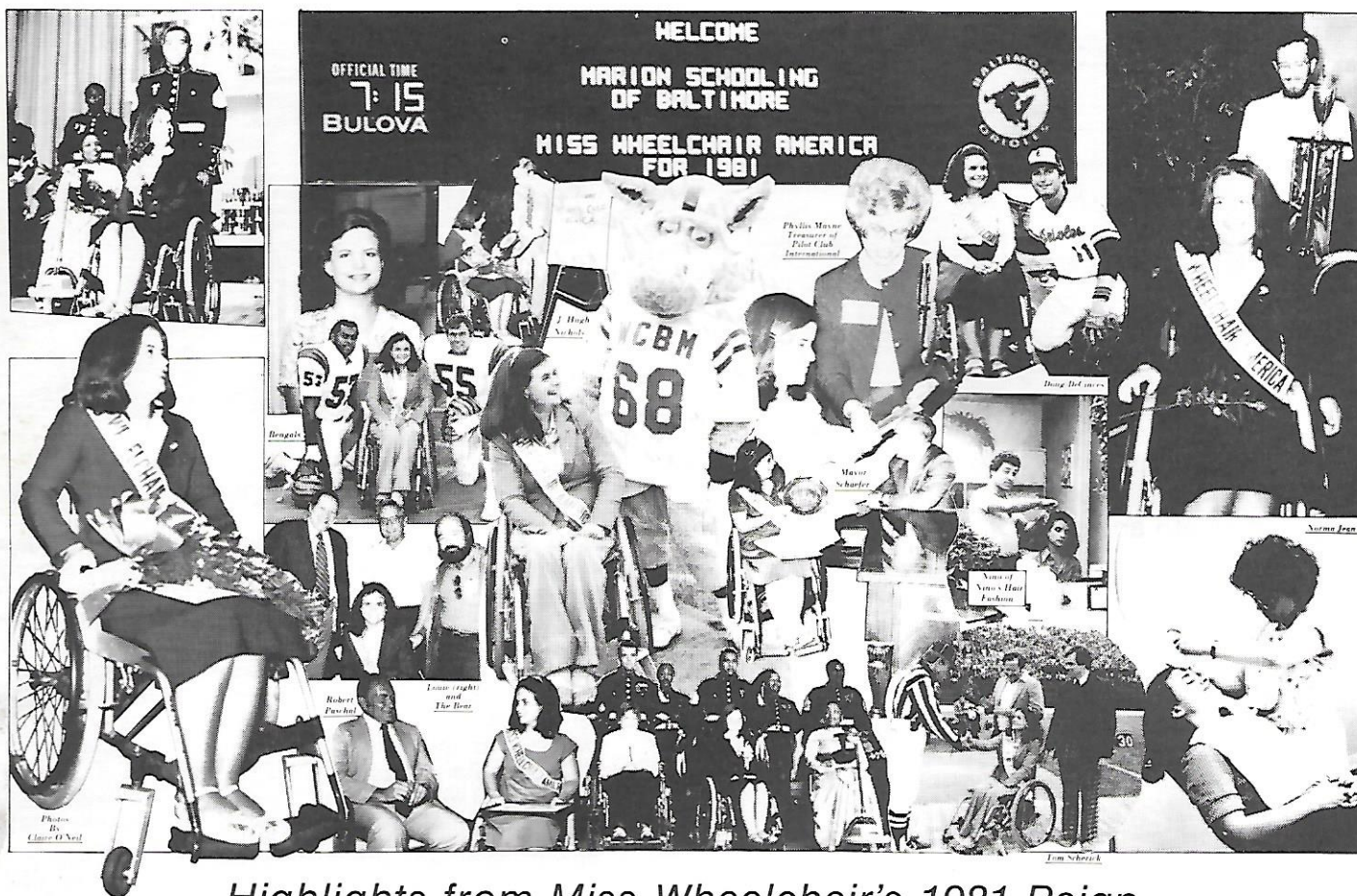
Lynn Dulaney  
MISS WHEELCHAIR WEST VIRGINIA

Lynn Dulaney, of Weirton, West Virginia, is presently employed by the Weirton Medical Center in the Nutritional Care Department.

...tional Care Department, and is currently working towards registration with the American Dietetic Association. She has tutored high school students for Boys Club of America for two years and co-ordinated a health-a-rama between the city of Dayton and Dayton University in her senior year. Lynn is extremely interested in participating in competitive swimming, and thoroughly enjoys arts and crafts and flower gardening. "Life must be lived to the fullest, but with concern, understanding and respect of others involved. Thoughtful planning is a must in everything one does."

*Mariann is so much help and to being such a great beauty - I'm a rare combination - Pick up everything!*





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Pageant Participants

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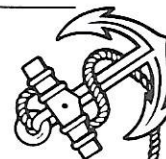
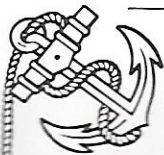


To one of my  
favorite daughters;  
Stay as sweet  
as you are!  
Mom Seitz

*When the night has been too lonely  
And the road has been too long,  
And you think that love is only  
For the lucky and the strong,  
Just remember in the winter  
Far beneath the bitter snow  
Lies the seed that with the sun's love  
In the spring becomes the rose.*

Amanda McBroom





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# GOOD LUCK M.W.A.



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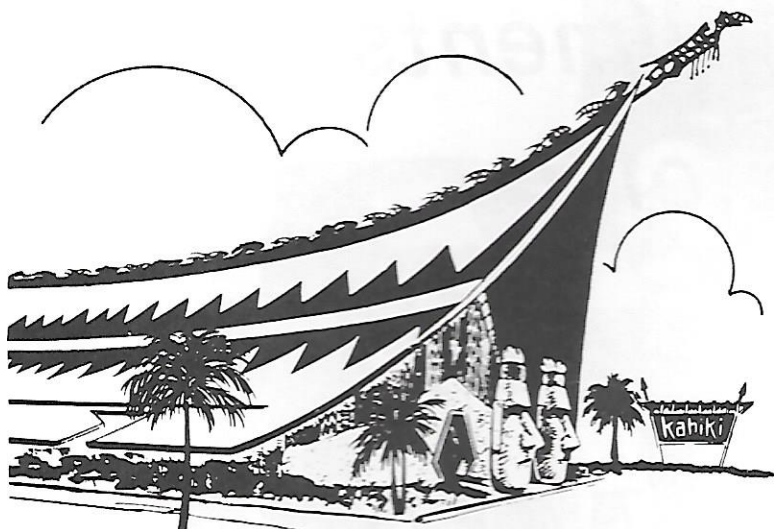


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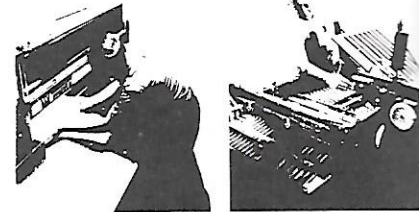


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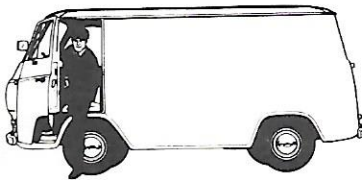
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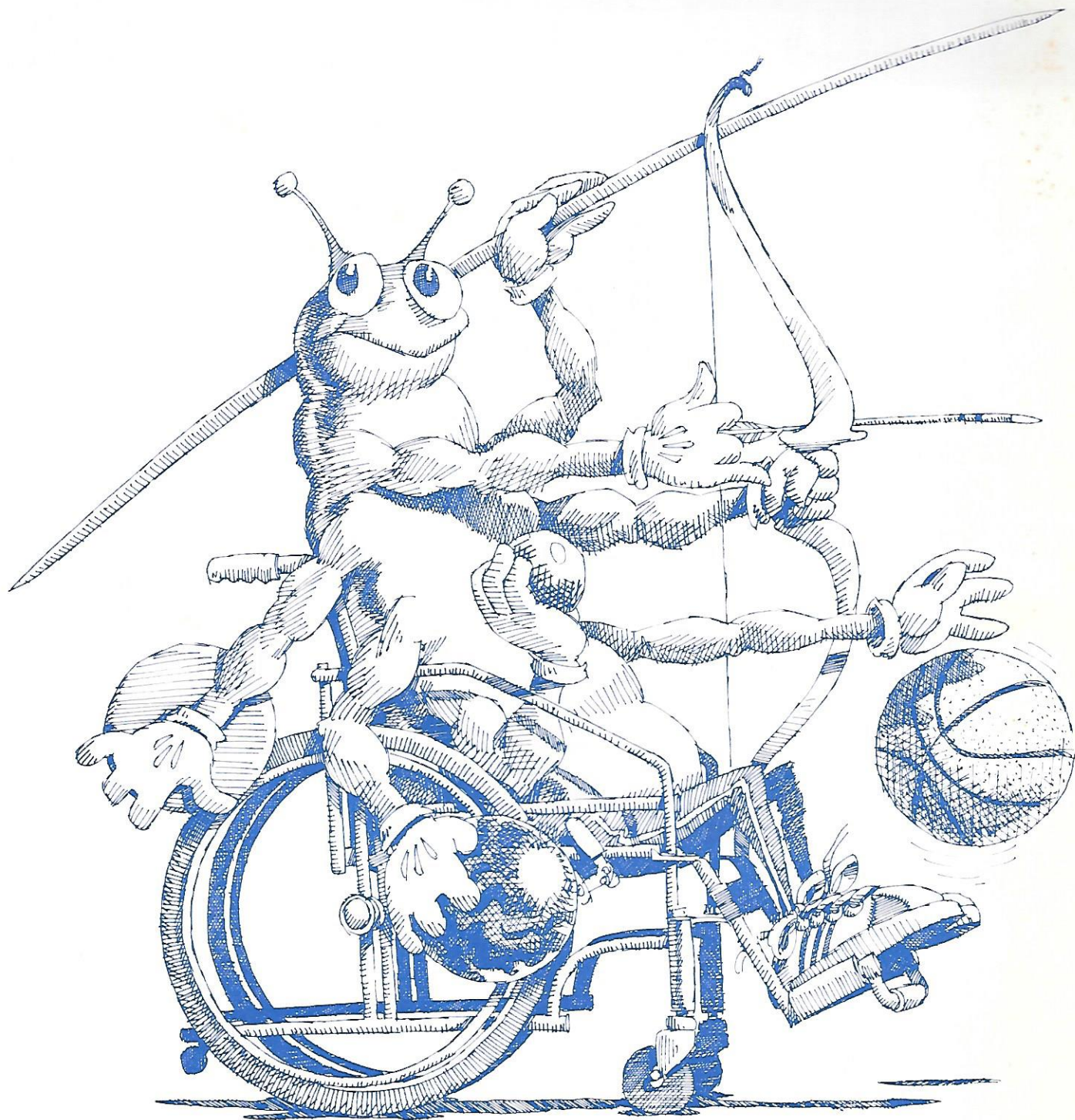


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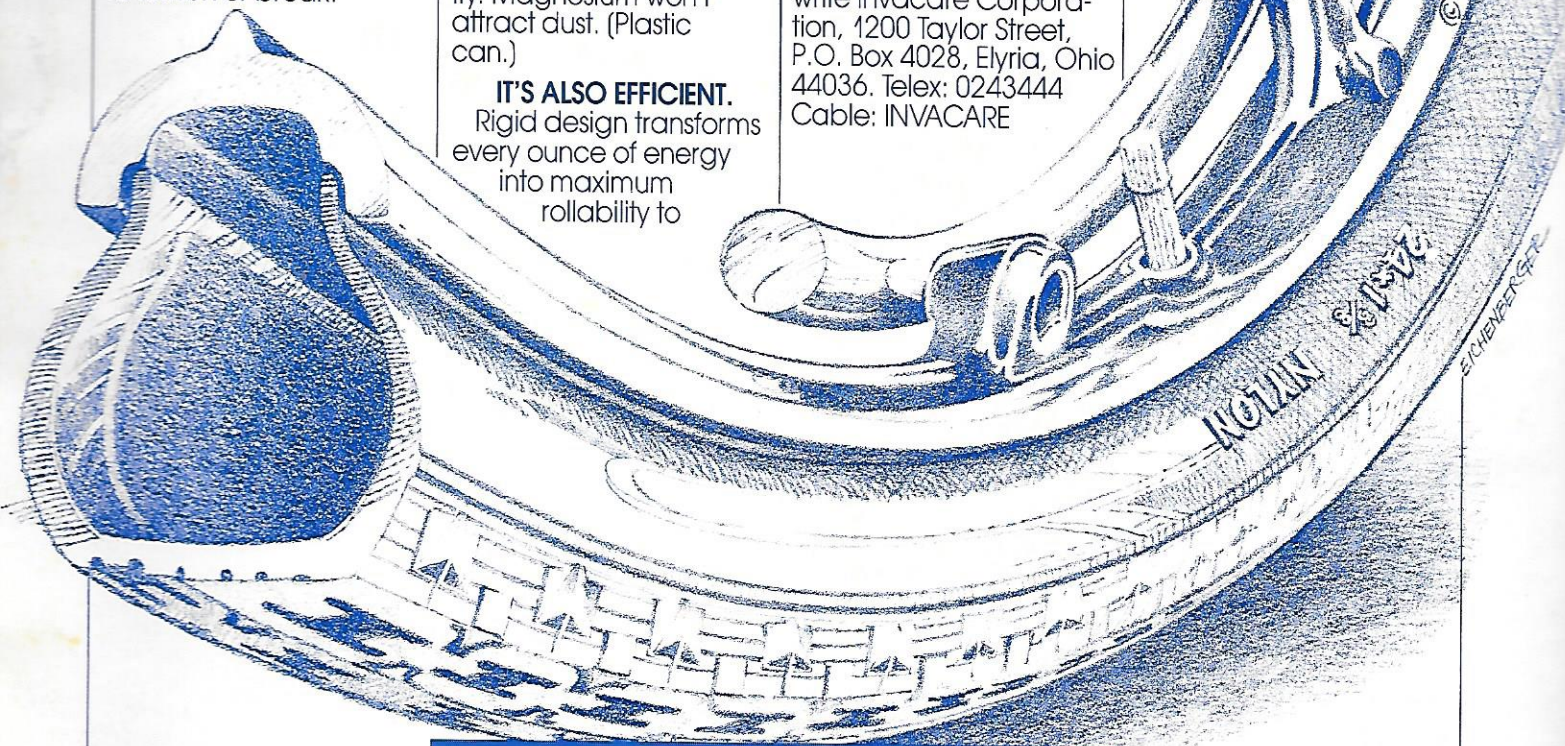
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