

YOUTH NEWS & VIEWS

New Queen Gets Ready For National Competition

Hal Jackson's Talented Teens of Washington's new queen, Miss Ujima Elizabeth Lofton, will be leaving on July 18 on her all-expense paid week to New York to compete in the International Finals at the world famous Apollo Theatre.

Newly crowned Queen Ujima Lofton sang "Wind Beneath My Wings" in her own special style that captured the crown for her. Queen Ujima is 16-years-old and a Junior at Cleveland High School. She recievedddd an \$800 college scholarship and a trip to New York City.

Each contestant was presented with a King County Recognition award from King

State Receives \$7.3 Million In Funds For Youth Programs

Washington state will receive almost \$7.3 million in additional funds for Summer Youth Employment Programs, Employment Security Commissioner Vernon Stoner announced last week.

The funds, part of the urban aid package passed by Congress and signed by the President last week, will be transmitted by Employment Security to the 12 Service Delivery Areas in the state that operate Summer Youth Employment Program as part of the Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA). The funds are in addition to \$11.2 million already allocated for youth employment programs in the state.

"It's critical that we are able to help more young people this summer," Stoner said. "The young workers will get more than just wages from a summer job. They will gain valuable work experience and help with remedial education if needed."

Of the \$500 million available for the program nationally, the first \$100 million is targeted for the largest 75 cities and the balance is distributed using a formula based principally on unemployment rates. As one of the larger cities, Seattle receives \$721,000 in addition to the \$1 million allocated to the Service Delivery Area.

The additional funds for the other Service Delivery Areas were allocated according to the same formula used for the regular allocation of funds for youth employment and training programs.

Tots To Teens

by Sue Ellen Sullivan

Dear Readers: A dessert recipe was given to me the other day, and it seems to be getting very popular. It's called "Dirt Cake." You put the ingredients in a large flower pot and serve it with artificial flowers on top so it really looks like a plant. The main ingredient is crushed chocolate cookies so you can imagine that it really looks like dirt. I'm concerned that when a child under four would taste this scoop of "dirt", he would get the impression that all dirt tastes like this. I know that some children will taste real dirt no matter what, but there is no reason to give ideas to those children who would never think of it. Save this cake for the older children and adults.

Dear Sue: My son has been an excellent student all through school. He is now attending a special program for advanced students at an outstanding high school. The problem is that he is not happy there. He wants to attend high school with his friends. There is nothing wrong with this high school, but it is not on the same academic level as his present school. After all he has achieved, I don't want him to take a step backward, but he is insisting on going to school with his friends in September. Peggy S.

Dear Peggy: Let him go to the school of his choice. He certainly won't do well if he is so unhappy, but insist that he continue to keep up his marks and not spend all his time socializing. A student who really wants to learn can learn in almost any school.

County Councilman Ron Sims. There were many memorable events of this dazzling evening, but one of the highlights was this presentation.

The Mistress of Ceremonies was Nerissa Williams, of KIRO Television and the Master of Ceremonies was Steve Pool of KOMO Television. These two dynamic television personalities did an excellent job of guiding the audience through and action-packed program.

Queen Ujima's court is 1st runner-up, Miss Teriauna Harris, an 8th grader at Tye Middle School in Bellevue; 2nd runner-up, Miss Nicole Labat, a Junior at Garfield High School in Seattle; 3rd runner-up, Miss Tanya Bridges of Maple Valley, a Junior at Lindbergh High School in Renton.

The 1992 contestants were from Tacoma, Bellevue, Maple Valley and the greater Seattle areas. The young ladies were 13 to 17-years-old. Other contestants were LaKeshia Barber, Renton High School; Shakisha Braziel, Curtis High School of Tacoma; Melissa Carr, McIlvaigh Middle School of Tacoma; Monica Pedescleaux, Sammamish High School of Bellevue; Penny Robinson, Franklin High School; Erinn Fleeks, Meany Middle School of Seattle.

C. Maxine Jenkins and Henry Jenkins, directors of Hal Jackson's Talented Teens of Washington, thank their staff, community, parents and friends for supporting our teenagers. If you are interested in this pageant competition call 722-1839 or write P.O. Box 78316, Seattle, WA. 98178.

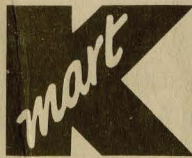


Teriauna Harris-1st place, Nicole Labat-2nd Place, Queen Ujima Lofton, Tanya Bridges-3rd place.

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