National Talent & Beauty Competition Announced

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Officials of American Beauty Search in Nashville, Tennessee, have announced the creation of a nationwide talent and beauty competition entitled, THE ALL-AMERICAN MUSIC PAGEANT. The pageant will have representatives from all fifty states in a national television show Monday, April 15, 1985.

The pageant will operate for the purpose of discovering America's most musically talented young women. It will give the winner the opportunity for a year of intense career development with her own agent, publicist, and recording and television contracts. This beauty pageant sets out to discover tomorrow's superstars.

In making the announcement, Elise Neal Davis, National Contestant Co-ordinator, and Juanita Duff, State Director for with Carolina, said the competition will begin locally through mation's radio stations. Those eligible are single young women between 18 and 28 years of age as of April 15, 1985, have never had a child, and have never been married.

Each contestant must submit a completed application, a photograph, and an audio or video tape of her talent to her radio station no later than December 31, 1984. In addition to the application, she must send a check for the \$25.00 entry fee, made payable to AMERICAN BEAUTY SEARCH.

Once each radio station has selected its entry, that contestant will become a finalist in the state pageant. She will be judged in four categories: talent, photogenic beauty, swimsuit, and poise and personality. The state winners will then travel to Nashville to be presented in a dazzling television spectacular. The judges will be the superstars of the music and entertainment industry.

Interested young women needing applications or more information should contact their local radio stations. They may also write to AMERICAN BEAUTY SEARCH, P.O. Box 41060, Nashville, Tennessee 37204 or call 1-800-523-1954.

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New Army College Fund

The Army College Fund (ACF) is now bigger and better with the maximum benefit increased to \$26,400 according to Lt. Col. Richard H. White, commander of U.S. Army Recruiting Battalion Raleigh.

"The Army is increasing Army College Fund benefits because we recognize that college costs will increase between the time the soldier enlists and the time he begins or returns to college," White said.

"Another major change is the ACF is that soldiers entering the Army with two years of college credit will earn an increased benefit. This change is in line with the Army's drive to recruit more soldiers with college backgrounds," White continued.

To take part in any of the ACF programs, the soldier must earn a high school diploma, be entering the Army for the first time, score in the top half on the Armed Forces aptitude test and enlist for skill training considered critical to Army needs.

The qualified soldier designates an amount between \$25 and \$100 to have deducted from his pay each month. The maximum soldier contribution is \$2,400 for a two-year enlistment and \$2,700 for a three or four-year enlistment. The government matches every dollar the soldier contributes with two more.

A qualified soldier who enlists for two years receives an additional \$8,000, bringing his Army College Fund to \$15,200. A soldier with two years of college credit gets a \$12,900 incentive, for a total Army College Fund of \$20,100. A three year enlistment can net a \$20,100 Army College Fund (\$12,000 incentive).

A \$26,400 Army College Fund is possible for a four-year enlistment. The government contributes \$18,300 in addition to the two-for-one matching.

Army College Fund benefits may be used for any educational program which is approved by the Veterans Administration. Funds are paid directly to the soldier by the government. Should the soldier not continue his education, the personal

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contribution of the soldier, but not the government's portion, will be returned in a lump sum.

"Anyone interested in taking part in the Army College Fund should contact one of my recruiters," said White. "The recruiter will explain all aspects of the program, such as the job training skills options which are part of the requirement."

"I would like to stress the importance of prior planning," added White. "A prospective soldier can enlist up to one year in advance of reporting for active duty. This allows the individual a greater choice of training and maximum flexibility as to when the individual reports for training. The individual can enlist while still in high school or college and report for basic training after graduation."

"These new programs are designed to ensure that the Army continues to recruit high quality young men and women. They are, after all, being entrusted with high technology equipment, not to mention the defense of our country," White concluded.

White is responsible for Army recruiting in 48 counties in eastern North Carolina.

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