

Amina Fakir, Miss Black America 1985.

Hampton U. to host Miss Black America Pageant

The 19th annual Miss Black America Pageant and Television Special has been set to be videotaped Oct. 4 at Hampton University in Hampton, Va., for airing this fall.

J. Morris Anderson, the founder and executive producer of the annual pageant, said, "The Miss Black America Pageant is 19 years old, and it is now time for her to go to college."

In response to why Hampton University was selected as the site for this year's pageant, Anderson said, "Hampton University is small enough to appreciate the Miss Black America Pageant, large enough to afford it and avant-garde enough to identify with it.

"I surveyed all of the predominantly black colleges and universities in America and found Hampton University to be more progressive, more up-todate and more abreast of the times."

The pageant was founded in 1968 and has been aired on national television ever since as a means of providing a stage on which the black woman can display her talent.

Anderson said that since the pageant is primarily a television special event, he was extremely impressed to learn that Hampton University places more of its academic emphasis on its telecommunications curriculum than do many of its counterparts.

Dr. William Harvey, president of Hampton University, said he

was proud to have the university associated with the pageant, and he plans to use the resources of Hampton University to insure that the quality of the production is better than the best MBA pageants of the past.

To accomplish that end, Harvey secured the services of a Hollywood producer as an executive consultant to help maintain the highest level of production value in the television

Anderson said the pageant's association with Hampton University is the greatest thing that has happened to the pageant since it was telecast live as a prime-time special on the NBC network.

"The comfortable ascension of the MBA Pageant into the halls of academia will cause doctors of philosophy, Hollywood stars, producers and talented women to mingle compatibly on a common stage," Anderson said.

"New Wood/New Ways" coming to Piedmont Craftsmen Inc.

"New Wood/New Ways," an invitational exhibition of sculptural and functional pieces by contemporary U.S. and Canadian artists, will open in the gallery of Piedmont Craftsmen Inc. on Sept. 19.

The exhibition illustrates current trends in woodworking and reveals how the distinctions between furniture and sculpture have adjusted to new expectations in the '80s.

Some works are strictly func-

tional, while other works stretch woodworking traditions past recognition.

People who worship the natural aspects of wood may find this exhibition somewhat controversial. Others may find such distortions delightful and witty.

"New Wood/New Ways" is circulated by the Southern Arts Federation, of which the North Carolina Arts Council is a member, and is made possible by funds from the National Endowment for the Arts.

The exhibition will open with a public reception from 7 to 9 p.m. on Sept. 19 and will continue through Sunday, Oct. 12.

The gallery is located at 411 N. Cherry St. Hours are Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday, 1 to 5 p.m.

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