

Winner crowned; protesters march *Beauty Pageant* SV woman takes county title

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By KATHY WATSON

Sentinel Staff Writer

SANTA CRUZ — Patricia Ann Flowers, a 19-year-old Bethany Bible College student, was crowned Miss Santa Cruz County for 1985 at the Civic Auditorium Friday evening.

While about 800 people gathered inside to watch 10 semi-finalists compete in the Miss Santa Cruz County pageant, hundreds more marched outside to protest the event.

Demonstrations at the Miss California pageant are traditional, but this is the first year a protest was held at the Miss Santa Cruz County pageant.

About 400 protesters rallied outside the Civic along both sides of Church Street before the pageant, many carrying candles and signs. The protesters spattered blood on the Civic's entry steps as an additional mark of protest.

Representatives from the pageant and protest said this demonstration seemed to have less friction between the two groups than the one last year at the Miss California Pageant. The state competition also is held in Santa Cruz.

Demonstrators cleared a pathway for spectators trying to enter the pageant. Those attending the competition seemed to quietly walk through the pickets.

The pageant winner, who performed classical ballet to "Singing in the Rain" for her talent, won a \$1,500 scholarship, more than \$2,000 in gifts, and the opportunity to compete for the Miss California title in June.

"I feel wonderful," said Flowers, posing for her first photo session as the new Miss Santa Cruz County. She succeeds Mara Miller, 19, Watsonville, who was a

Please see Page A4.

Pageant

Continued from Page A1

semi-finalist in the Miss California Pageant last year.

DeAnna Rose Ellis, 18, a Harbor High School student, walked away with the Miss Congeniality award and a \$100 scholarship. The 10 semi-finalists voted among themselves who would receive this honor.

The contestants were judged in interviews Friday afternoon, with the talent, swimsuit and evening gown competition Friday evening. A panel of six judges chose the winner, based 50 percent on talent. The other categories of the competition had equal points.

First runner-up, and the winner of a \$600 scholarship, was La'Nette Renea Hand, who sang "Kiss Me in the Rain."

Cecelia Specht, 18, an Aptos High School student, placed second runner-up. She performed a dramatic interpretation.

Kristen Suzanne Barrett, 19, a Cabrillo College student, won a \$400 scholarship for being third runner-up. Barrett performed a gymnastics routine for her talent. Ellis, who played the drums, was fourth runner-up and received a \$300 scholarship.

The other semi-finalists, who received a \$100 scholarship each, were Beverley Lynne Ponnequin, Barbara Daria Sehna, Ramie Lynn Sugidono, Diana April Robinson and Donna Denise Luchsinger.

The contestants received a total of \$4,100 in scholarships, including awards for most improved and selling the most tickets to the pageant, a \$100 award given to first runner-up Hand. Janice Allegri and

Rose Kelsay were co-directors.

This year's Civic Award went to the Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Explorers, a group of young volunteers who provided security at the pageant.

An honorary award went to the husband-wife team of Joseph and Karen Perry for their contributions. Joseph Perry, producer of the show and owner of Ideal Hair, was in charge of the contestants' hair care and make-up needs. Karen Perry, owner of Perry's Floral, donated flowers and corsages throughout the year and prepared the contestants for interviews.

The theme of the show, which included singing and dancing by former title-holders in the county, was "We Are Family."

The new Miss Santa Cruz County lives in Scotts Valley and is the daughter of William and Verona Hennings of San Jose.

Flowers, who has studied dance 10 years, prepared three months for the talent competition. In addition, she said she dieted six months to lose 20 pounds.

The winner's long-term objective is to teach disabled children. For now, Flowers said, she plans "to go to the Miss California Pageant and do the best I can."