

Gloria Pushruk wins Miss CINA title

Miss Gloria Pushruk, 21, is Miss CINA 1981. Gloria was chosen from six other young native women who entered in the annual Miss Cook Inlet Native Association's queen pagent in Anchorage.

Miss Congeniality and second runner up went to Danna Amidon, sponsored by the CINA. Flora Lee, also sponsored by CINA was named first runner up and Judith Tetpon sponsored by her grandparents Mr. and Mrs. Eric Tetpon, Sr. of Homer, Alaska, received the Lisa Leonard Memorial Award.

The contestants must have been at least one-fourth Native American and must have lived here in Anchorage for at least 6 months. Students from other cities are also eligible to enter the scholarship competition as long as the other requirements are met.

This is the second time Gloria has entered the scholarship competition. She received the Miss Congeniality award in 1977. Her sponsor was CIRI. She was attending East High School in Anchorage.

"I'm getting used to being Miss CINA," Gloria said. "My friends are treating me not too differently. They're just giving me a little more attention, every time they are near me they say 'oh! I'm next to the queen!'"

"I know it will stop soon, getting all this extra attention. I don't want to change, but when I do change it will be for the better," Gloria said.

Henrietta Hansen, CINA Community Center Employee and pagent volunteer, said the contestants are taught how to improve their poise, character, confidence and knowledge of their native culture before the competition. The new Miss CINA will also attend modeling school for more personal improvement. "If I walked out there without the training, I wouldn't be here," Miss CINA, Gloria said. "I think I would have been too scared. That really helps."

Gloria is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Simon Pushruk of Anchorage. The Pushruk's are originally from King Island, located on the Bering Sea in northwestern Alaska.

Gloria is presently a first year student at the Anchorage Community College studying full time in her interest, outdoor recreation.



Gloria Pushruk

Photo by Bob Koweluk