

Miss WEIO plans space-age future

A young woman who has participated in subsistence activities such as berry picking and clam digging and hopes to one day work for the National AeroSpace Administration as a computer scientist, has been selected the 1982 Miss World Eskimo Indian Olympics.

Paula Vivian White, an 18-year-old graduate of East Anchorage High School, was chosen to wear the ivory and bone crown of Miss WEIO by judges who had to question her and the first runner-up three times before making the difficult decision of who would wear the crown.

The first runner-up was a vivacious young Apache woman from the White Mountain Res-

ervation in Arizona, Jo Ann "Oni" Benally.

Second runner-up was Miss CINA, Rose Abraham, and Miss Congeniality, the award voted upon by the contestants was given to Paula Harvey of Kotzebue.

The judges had a difficult time in deciding whom to award the title to because both Miss White and Benally were expert in knowledge of their culture according to one judge.

Miss White said that before the announcement of winner, the judges told all contestants that there had been a tie but, the judges didn't say which place the tie was for.

Miss White and Miss Benally were called out and each

asked, "Who is president and vice president of the World Eskimo Olympics?" "We answered the same, word for word," said Miss White.

Once again they were called out and this time were asked, "What is the most important issue facing your people and culture today?" Miss Benally's answer is not known but Miss White answered "subsistence."

"I said I feel it is important because when you take subsistence away you take away part of our culture. Whaling, fishing, hunting, because that's what our ancestors lived off of."

Miss White said that although she knows the importance of her subsistence heritage she

sometimes has difficulty practicing it because she lives in the urban area of Anchorage "especially my Tlingit heritage."

But not being able to fish as much as her ancestors did, had not kept her from participating in things that make her and others aware of her heritage.

Miss White is a member of the National American Indian Youth Association which this spring organized the first Annual American Indian Youth Leadership Conference; she was vice-president of the East Anchorage High School Native Culture Club, and is a continuing member of the Na-

tive Dress Review in Anchorage.

The Native Dress Review is an organization of young Native students who learn to make their traditional clothes and model them for any organization which is interested. The Dress Review is guided and supervised by Audrey Ambrose Armstrong who coordinates the Miss WEIO competition.

Miss White says she is active in these organizations because of her deep love for her Native people. "To represent the Eskimo and Indian people in something like this really touches my heart. I just love my Native people and I hope I do a good job representing them."

She says that during her reign as Miss WEIO she hopes to be able to "let young people know that being an Eskimo or an Indian is something to be proud of. That is very important. Be proud of who you are and where you came from."

She said she hopes to travel to Southeast Alaska this summer to work in a fish cannery and to participate in some of her people's celebrations.

After that, she will attend college at the University of Oregon majoring in computer science.

She chose that major because "I did a study of research in the areas of study and felt the thing to get into is computer science because my strong point is mathematics."

She comes by that strength naturally. Her father is a civil engineer in Anchorage and has worked as a Land Law Examiner



Queen Paula White and her court. Left to right is Pauline Harvey, Miss Congeniality; Rose Abraham, second runner-up; Paula; JoAnn Benally, first runner-up, and Anna Pickett, Miss Tundra Times.

PHOTOS BY BILL HESS



Who could be so bold as to judge a baby? Tough decision though it was, Reggie Joule the Third of Kotzebue presented himself well before the judges and won the baby contest.