

PROTESTING PAGEANT

Bra-Burners' Blitz Boardwalk

By JOHN L. BOUCHER. Miss America Pageant contestants were rehearsing in the Big Convention Hall Saturday afternoon while outside on the boardwalk a brigade of 75 women, identifying themselves as "women's liberation" group, staged a two-hour demonstration protesting the image of Miss America.

In the first such protest in the history of the Miss America Pageant, the demonstrators — ranging in age from 18 to 68, and carrying placards blasting the ideal of Miss America and the pageant method of judging — climaxed their demonstration by discarding bras, high-heeled shoes and other items of feminine apparel in a receptacle labeled the "Freedom Trash Can."

MINI-SKIRTS

Except for an advance guard of eight mini-skirted, slacks-clad young women, for the most part, sans make-up, and 68-year-old Clara De Miha, the bulk of the demonstrators, all from New York City, arrived on two chartered buses.

They were granted a permit for the demonstration, which was orderly, and which was viewed by perhaps some 2,000 Boardwalk strollers.

Police Chief Mario Floriani and a picked squad of uniformed and plainclothesmen barricaded a section of the Boardwalk in front of the Convention Hall which separated the demonstrators and spectators while the women demonstrators banned newsmen and interviewers.

Clara De Miha managed to say, "There are more important things to pay attention to than beauty. It's just a sham." She was stopped in the middle of her next remark by one member of the group who said, "We won't talk to men reporters."

SUMMED IT UP

Valerie Ansel, a platinum blonde wearing make-up and mascara, perhaps summed up the voices of protest best. She said, "We are against the Miss America image because they use her for promotion to have our boys die in Vietnam in a better spirit." She termed the Pageant a "political promotion with the crown placed on the head of mediocrity."

Miss Ansel said the same protest "would go" for Miss Black America if she is used for pro-

motion of ideals which they are against. "We disagree with that idea, too," she said. Then she said she didn't blame the Pageant promoters who were making a business out of it.

The pickets carried placards with slogans that ranged from the innocuous to the unprintable. Among them: "Girls are crowned while boys are killed in Vietnam." "Can make-up cover the wounds of oppression" "Stop the mother image" and "Down with Miss America."

THEIR OWN NUMBER

As the bras, girdles, falsies, curlers, and copies of popular women magazines burned in the

"Freedom Trash Can," the demonstration reached the pinnacle of ridicule when the participants paraded a small lamb wearing a gold banner worded "Miss America."

As they paraded the frightened animal the demonstrators sang "There She is Your Miss America" and then they added a number of their own "Atlantic City is a City of Class . . ." the rest was unprintable.

There was little or no heckling from spectators who for the most part looked on in disbelief and spent their time asking what it was all about.

Demonstrators lingered on into the night.

What's Going On? Sightseers Asked

By JOHN KATZ
Press Staff Writer

It took visitors a little time to comprehend what was happening in front of Convention Hall Saturday afternoon.

But not too much time.

"Oh, no," groaned one weary man, watching the 75 women protesting the Pageant, throwing away their bras, and parading around with a lamb.

"This is what we come down here to get away with from."

"It's a disgrace that this country should allow this," said one woman, but she didn't say why.

"No, you can't have my name. I don't want my daughter to know I was here."

Some just gawked in astonishment as the girls told male reporters to beat it as they demonstrated for freedom.

INSULTS AND TAUNTS

One man, who identified himself as Tony Barbara of Philadelphia wasn't so reticent. He was seen shouting insults and taunts at the demonstrators at various times throughout the afternoon.

"They have equal rights, and I have equal rights," he said, "and there isn't one of these girls that could shine Miss America's shoes."

Another tall, gawky youth, surrounded by a band of chortling admirers, shrieked at and insulted the marchers as soon

as they or a unit of the working press came within earshot.

For their part, the demonstrators seemed to be having a good time.

Since they were determined not to talk to male reporters, much of their intent had to be gleaned from press handouts, conversations with female reporters, and one or two of the girls who forgot that they weren't supposed to like men, or some such.

'DON'T LIKE MEN'

"It's not that we don't like men," one marcher told a reporter, "we just don't like what you stand for."

"This is the ugly pageant," said one elderly spectator, "the third pageant and the ugly one."

Another man looked in silence at the girls singing, displaying their posters, waving their bras, and paying homage to a lamb that looked as confused as everyone else.

"I don't care if they march," he said softly, "but I wish to God I knew what they were marching about."

Cadet Reber Gets Military School OK

ERMA — Cadet James W. Reber, cadet commander of the Cape May County composite squadron of the Civil Air Patrol, has been accepted at Bordentown Military School, for the fall semester.

Cadet Reber has completed