

# Former Miss America Will Be OVAC'S Dinner Speaker

For only the second time in history, the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference will be addressed by a woman when the far-flung, bi-state loop holds its annual spring dinner and awards night on Thursday, May 12, at Oglebay Park's Glessner Auditorium.

Marilyn Van Derbur, a former Miss America who is noted for her dynamic style of speaking, has been secured for the dinner through the General Motors Corp.

The only other time the OVAC was addressed by a woman was when Ann Hayes, wife of Ohio State football coach Woody Hayes, appeared before the body and proved to be a hit with the capacity crowd.

Associated with the Public Relations Department of General Motors, Miss Van Derbur is also well known as a television personality. She has been the hostess of more than 20 network television specials aired by either NBC or CBS. She currently is president of her own Motivational Institute in Denver.

A graduate with Phi Beta Kappa honors, from the University of Colorado following her reign for one year as Miss America, Van Derbur is an avid sportswoman. She has competed in national AAU swimming meets and raced competitively on the ski team while she was in college. Also an excellent horsewoman, the former Miss America has broken and trained many of her own horses.

In great demand as a keynote convention speaker, Van Derbur has appeared before numerous business, professional, educational and youth groups in recent years. She was



*Marilyn Van Derbur*

named by the Direct Selling Association as the "Saleswoman of the Year" for 1971 and the Meeting Planners named her the "Speaker of the Year" in 1973.

A former member of the President's Advisory Council on Adult

Education, she is widely hailed for her motivational work with youth and she also has been consulted by educators on matters such as curricula development.

She is the wife of a Denver attorney and the mother of one child.

"We're delighted to have some one of Miss Van Derbur's background to address our conference dinner," Executive OVAC Executive Secretary Sam Mumley said. "The combination of her zest for life, contagious enthusiasm and varied interests has added to her explosive speaking style."

Mumley said that Miss Van Derbur's appearance offered an excellent opportunity for parents to take advantage of her motivational approach to common living. He also recommended that high school students, preferably juniors and seniors, would benefit from hearing Miss Van Derbur's speech.

Tickets for the dinner, priced at \$7 each, are now available at Bernhardt's in Wheeling or at Kelly Mike's Sports Center in Martins Ferry. Reservations also can be made by calling Melvin Balgo in Tiltonsville at 859-6553 or Sam Mumley in St. Clairsville at 695-0372.