

## Everything's Coming Up Roses for Engineer's Daughter

- Daughter of Sudhir Agrawal is one of seven selected for the Tournament of Roses Royal Court.

By GAYLE ANDERSON

The first thing that happened when MTA engineer Sudhir Agrawal returned to his Arcadia home last Monday were words spoken in a hushed and royal tone outside his door: "Princess Anjali is home."

When he opened the door, there stood his smiling 17-year-old daughter, Anjali Agrawal, with two official attendants bearing the Tournament of Roses royal crest on their jackets and on the coach (well, ok, van) that delivered the entourage to the now-royal residence.



A ROSE IS A ROSE> MTA engineer Sudhir Agrawal holds up the Pasadena Star News report that announces the selection of his daughter as a member of the Tournament of Roses Royal Court. Anjali Agrawal is pictured on the far left in the newspaper photo.

PHOTO: GAYLE ANDERSON

Princess Anjali, otherwise known as the daughter of Sudhir and Neeta Agrawal, is one of the newly crowned members of the 2003 Pasadena Tournament of Roses Royal Court.



Anjali, pictured left, was one of seven young women from the Pasadena area selected Monday to reign over Pasadena's world-famous Rose Parade and Rose Bowl Game on New Years Day. The Tournament's 85th Rose Queen will be announced Oct. 22. (Photo courtesy of Pasadena Tournament of Roses Association.)

Monday's announcement came three weeks after the process began that attracted more than 950 Pasadena-area young women. Selections were based on an array of qualities, including public speaking ability, poise, academic achievement, community involvement and personality.

As ambassadors of the Tournament of Roses, the Royal Court members will attend more than 150 community and media functions during their reign over the 114th Rose Parade and the 89th Rose Bowl Game.

But royal life won't be all roses for Anjali and the other members of the Royal Court. The rush of duties and appearances all but cancel any previous plans, leave about four hours a day for schoolwork, require wake-up calls at 4 a.m. and demand perfection 24/7.

She can handle it, her father says, who, at the same time, bemoans the demands on her time that will leave precious few moments for home.

A senior at La Salle High School, Anjali's list of accomplishments, activities, and honors reads like a resume of someone with a couple of handlers on constant call.

She is a director of Community Relations at Interact Club of Sierra Madre; president of Older Girl Planning Board of Girl Scouts; a member of the National Honor Society and California Scholarship Federation; a tutor, and a graduate of Mudra Dance Academy of Indian Classical Dance School. She is the recipient of the Girl Scout Gold Award in 2002 and was a runner-up who earned an Honorable Mention in Congressman David Dreir's Volunteer Award for Community Service.

Anjali is also an active member of India Heritage Center in Pasadena and, in her spare time, a junior volunteer at Santa Teresita Hospital in Duarte. Her past accomplishments include being secretary of the Red Cross youth program in 10th and 11th grades. Anjali plans to study occupational therapy at USC and aspires to work in the healthcare field.

Certain that Anjali would be chosen for the honor, her brother, Anubhav Agrawal, 20, flew in from Omaha, Nebraska, to attend the announcement on Monday. He is a senior at Creighton University, studying chemistry.

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