

Cotton pageant queen entry turned down

By T. C. GALUCCI
One hundred and fourteen (minus one) duchesses from across the state, will vie Saturday for the crown of the 40th Annual

Queen of Cotton Pageant and Ball. Sponsored by the Student Agronomy Society, the pageant will be held in the Rudder Auditorium—but not without hitches. After

being invited by the Agronomy Society to submit a candidate, the Women's Awareness Workshop did so, only to have their entry returned and refused.

According to Kathleen Oaks, co-chairman, the Workshop submitted the application, the required \$15 entry fee and a picture of their candidate, Stephen Goble, managing editor of The Battalion.

"The word 'duchess' was mentioned several times on the form, but never was the word 'female.' We had everything in on time, but after the deadline had passed, the form was returned to us denying

us the right to enter Steve as a candidate. When I asked them the grounds, I was told that everyone knows that a duchess is a woman. I informed them that I didn't know any such thing. According to my dictionary, a duchess is the wife of a duke, and I doubt if they have any of those in their pageant," said Oaks.

Following a telephone conversation between Barnee Escott, co-chairman of the Women's Society

sponsor, last Thursday morning, Bockholt still refused to allow Goble to enter the otherwise all-female affair.

"The reason being that he did not meet the qualifications of the club. The rules state that the candidate must be a woman, and Steve is not a woman," said Bockholt later.

According to Escott, Bockholt said that they would be glad to accept a female entry from the

Workshop and have Goble as her escort. Escott replied that they would be more than happy to provide Goble with a female escort.

The Workshop plans to follow through their objections as far as necessary.

Said Oaks, "Basically one of the purposes of the Women's Awareness Workshop is to fight discrimination against males as well as females. We would like to see equality for everyone. We feel that the male body is equally entitled to being the subject of admiration as well as exploitation, depending on how you view the Cotton Pageant."

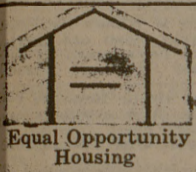
The Workshop has already contacted the A&M Chapter of the Civil Liberties Union. Marty Hokanson, president, and Bill Platt, Brazos County ACLU, have referred them to a local lawyer for advice. Oaks says that they are seeking legal advice, and will just have to wait for the next step.

With or without Goble, the Pageant is scheduled for 7 p. m. with a dance following. Tentatively set for 9 p. m., Bill Mack and the Midnight Cowboys will provide music in the first floor of the Rudder Theater. The ball is \$4 a couple and can be bought in advance by calling 845-3042.

Profits from the event will go for scholarships and field trips for the Agronomy Society.

Next Saturday night members of the Women's Awareness Workshop hope to see Goble parading down the Rudder Auditorium. The Student Agronomy Society says that he won't unless he meets the female qualifications that Bockholt says are required.

FOR BEST RESULTS TRY BATTALION CLASSIFIED

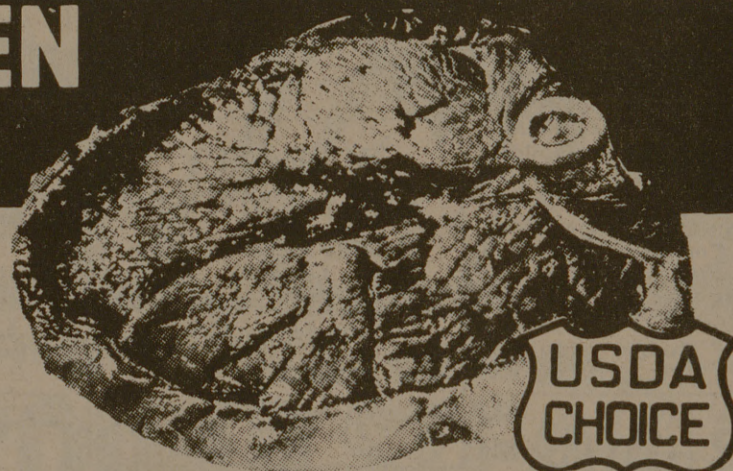


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