

# New queen

## 'Miss Rodeo Texas' is an Aggie

By AMY DAVIS  
Campus Reporter

Leslie Walker must have a fairly godmother. While her classmates at Texas A&M University are studying the how's and why's of poultry farming in their ag economics classes, she will be getting big bucks to smile pretty and visit rodeos.

The 20-year-old junior was crowned "Miss Rodeo Texas" Saturday night in San Antonio. She will represent the state while travelling for the next year promoting rodeos.

"I was numb, this man gave me yellow roses and they just kept shaking," she said.

But yellow roses and a crown weren't the only things Walker got with the title. She will be riding high in the saddle in her black, new pickup truck that has "MISS RODEO TEXAS" in orange letters across the side.

Her truck has a trailer hitch — so of course she needed a trailer, and she got one. A two-horse Gooseneck trailer will be following her to the 100 or so rodeo tours she will make this year.

She also won a \$1,000 scholarship, but that is nothing new for Walker. She entered Texas A&M with a \$6,000 scholarship she had won from the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo in high school.

Of course, every cowgirl needs

accessories, and Walker is no exception. She won a new saddle, belt buckle, custom-made chaps and spurs.

This is not the first time Walker's been a winner. She was Miss Texas High School Rodeo Queen in 1977, and she represented the state at the national contest where she placed first runner-up.

Walker was sponsored by the Texas A&M Rodeo Club, which she has been a member of for three years.

The contestants had to do more than tip their Resistol cowboy hats, tap their Justin boots and gallop into the sunset to win the title.

They were judged on beauty, poise, personality, western attire and horsemanship.

Walker also placed first in a separate horsemanship division where she impressed the judges with her barrel racing.

Walker not only likes to run when the horse is doing all the work, she also enjoys huffing and puffing herself. She ran for the Texas A&M track team when she was a freshman, but gave it up for rodeos.

She said her new obligations will allow her little free time for the coming year.

"My schedule is booked solid for the next two weeks," she said. "I have something morning, noon and night."

Walker will be outfitted in some new western clothes when she visits the western market in Dallas.

"I heard you just walk through there, and they throw tons of clothes at you," she said.

And she will need some nice duds, too, because horses and cows won't be the only things she sees at the rodeos. She will meet Mel Tillis, Charlie Pride, The Charlie Daniels Band, Shaun Cassidy and many other performers.

The new queen said she is just beginning to realize how much the title is going to change her life. Her father wants her to quit school and concentrate solely on her title.



Leslie Walker, 1980 Miss Rodeo Texas, says she'll probably leave school for the year of her reign because of heavy public appearance commitments. Walker is an agricultural economics major at Texas A&M. Her dog Bailey seems unaffected by the sudden notoriety.  
Staff photo by Lee Roy Leshper Jr.

Walker admits it will be next to impossible to fulfill her obligations and keep her grades up at the same time.

Walker said she can't imagine what her life will be like a year from now, but she knows she will be preparing for the national contest.

"The only thing I hope is that next year I am Miss Rodeo America and doing the same thing again," she said.

Walker will compete for that title in December in Oklahoma.

# Lloyd's of London shaken by suits

United Press International  
LONDON — Some of Britain's richest aristocrats are suing Lloyd's of London, and that just isn't done, old chap.

It certainly never has been done in the 300-year history of the world's most famous insurance organization.

The lawsuit — by Princess Margaret's private secretary, earls and other hyphenated names of the Establishment — is shaking Lloyd's to its already troubled foundations.

The suit violates Lloyd's Rule No. 1, which has guided it since its 17th century beginnings in a waterfront coffee house: the member always pays up.

But in the case of nearly \$37 million worth of claims on property in New York's Bronx and in Canada, 44 members of Syndicate 762 flatly refused to pay.

The suit, being heard in Britain's High Court in June, contends that Lloyd's violated the act of parliament under which it is run, ignored its rules and faked its responsibility.

For Lloyd's the suit could not have come at a worse time.

It faces the worst loss in its history over computer leasing policies in the United States — a debacle which has emeshed it in a tangle of lawsuits and could cost it \$350 million.

Lloyd's also is in the throes of an internal investigation questioning the way it does business. That question is fundamental to the suit by Syndicate 762, the Sasse Syndicate.

In one sense, Lloyd's is not a company but an association of individuals. It provides premises and staff for some 4,000 insurance professionals who judge risks, set premiums and do paperwork. Rarely do

they take the risks.

That is left to about 14,500 wealthy amateurs who never set foot in Lloyd's and mostly do not know about the policies they back. In exchange for profits they back Lloyd's unquestioningly — in theory. In practice there are restrictions.

Under Lloyd's rules, syndicates cannot write policies which bring in premium income totalling more than twice the capital kept available to settle claims. The 44 members of the Sasse Syndicate charge this rule was violated and that Lloyd's knew it.

The 1871 act of parliament under which Lloyd's operates specifies that insurance business can be transacted only in Lloyd's underwriting room. The Sasse suit charges Lloyd's treats this requirement as if it didn't exist.

Two-thirds of Lloyd's premium income of more than \$4 billion annually comes from overseas, much of it from the United States. Syndicates

employ agents to issue policies which are binding on the syndicate.

The Sasse lawsuit challenges this system, too.

A Miami agent wrote dozens of policies on property in New York's Bronx, which has been devastated by fires. Police suspect arson in many of them which would make the insurers not liable.

Since arson had not been proved, Lloyd's paid the claims then tried to get its money back in a complex legal battle of suit and countersuit.

"None of us," said Lord Napier and Ettrick the 14th Baron Napier and Princess Margaret's private secretary, "disagree with the ultimate precept of Lloyd's, which is that one is ultimately liable for one's legal obligations."

"But the question is, are these claims legal?"  
A lot more than money is at stake in the answer.

# Bill to lighten heavy issues

United Press International  
ANNAPOLIS, Md. — A Maryland legislator says it isn't easy being fat — and he wants to do something to lighten the load.

Raymond Dypski, who has 260 pounds spread about his 5-foot-8 frame, claims fat people have to pay double for clothes they don't even like, are plagued with worthless diet plans and have trouble getting jobs — or are relegated to behind-the-scenes positions.

A state study commissioned last year at Dypski's urging found evidence to back his contentions. So Dypski is drafting a bill this year to make discrimination against fat people illegal and to regulate the weight-reducing-aid industry.

The study found discrimination against fat people in employment, education and a variety of consumer areas, ranging from the cost of clothes and life insurance premiums to advertising for unproven weight reduction programs.

The study said the weight-loss industry has an estimated \$15 billion annual gross.

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