

Local



Sheri Ryman, 19, the reigning Miss Texas A&M University, was crowned Miss Texas 1981 at the Miss Texas Pageant held in Fort Worth Saturday.

# Texas A&M coed wins Miss Texas pageant

By DENISE RICHTER  
Battalion Staff

Miss Texas 1981 has a message for Aggies: "I would like to thank the Aggies for their support. It was great being up on stage and hearing the whoops from the Aggies in the audience. It really helped a lot, knowing they were behind me."

Sheri Ryman, 19, the reigning Miss Texas A&M University, Saturday was named Miss Texas at the conclusion of the Miss Texas Pageant which was televised from Fort Worth. In September she will represent Texas in the Miss America Pageant held in Atlantic City, N.J.

Ryman, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Darwin J. Ryman, is a junior industrial distribution major from Texas City.

"I'm going to prepare for the Miss America pageant the same way I did for the Miss Texas pageant," Ryman said in a telephone interview from Fort Worth. "I'll be preparing my wardrobe, keeping up with current events and working on my gymnastics routine."

For the talent competition in the Miss Texas pageant, Ryman performed a gymnastic-jazz routine to the theme from "Close Encounters of the Third Kind."

Although she sprained her ankle during the talent rehearsal Wednesday, Ryman performed her gymnastics routine in the pageant's talent competition. "I had a blister on the bottom of my right foot so I was trying to avoid putting my weight on it. By doing that, I landed wrong and sprained my ankle. I had to keep it wrapped for the competition, but I wasn't even conscious of it."

She will perform the same type of gymnastics-jazz routine in the Miss America Pageant.

The 1981 pageant was the third Miss Texas Pageant in which Ryman had competed. She first competed in the state pageant at 17 as Miss Big Thicket. Last year she was among the 10 finalists as Miss Bay Area.

Ryman was named Miss Texas A&M at the conclusion of the two-day Miss Texas A&M University Scholarship Pageant held February 21-22.

"The Miss Texas A&M Pageant is one of the best preliminary pageants in the state," Ryman said. "It's so well-organized and well-run — I heard a lot of good things about it from other people at the (Miss Texas) pageant."

As Miss Texas, Ryman will have to spend a year at North Texas State University.

"This will affect my education a great deal," Ryman said. "Only four schools in the whole nation offer the industrial distribution program and NTSU isn't one of them. I'll try to take courses that can be used in my major, but this will probably postpone my graduation by a year."

After her year at North Texas, Ryman plans to return to Texas A&M to complete her education. Upon graduation, she plans to work in the field of engineering sales where, as she told the audience Saturday night, she hopes "to become an Aggie asset, not an Aggie joke."

Ryman is not the first beauty pageant winner to come from Texas A&M. Kim Tomes, Class of '77, was crowned Miss USA 1977 and went on to compete for the title of Miss Universe in Santo Domingo in the Dominican Republic.

# Private sector increases gifts to public universities

Raising money from the private sector — an activity given added importance by President Reagan's budget cuts — is now drawing greater emphasis among public universities that have depended on private support for many years.

The University of Tennessee System completed a three-year "Tennessee Tomorrow" fund-raising campaign last September that produced \$57 million in gifts — \$22 million more than the goal, a university spokesman said.

The Tennessee System received 13 gifts of \$1 million or more from corporations and individuals, and faculty and staff contributed \$1.3 million to the campaign, he said.

"Corporations that had policies of not supporting publicly assisted universities are now financial supporters of programs at the University of Tennessee," said university President Edward J. Boling. "The university is stronger and is in a better position to

withstand the shock of sudden economic fluctuations in the state and nation."

The money raised by Tennessee was earmarked for educational, public service and research programs like scholarships, salary supplements for outstanding professors and library materials which cannot be financed by state appropriations and student fees.

At Texas A&M University private giving has increased every year for the last 10-12 years, said Dr. Robert L. Walker, vice president for development.

Walker said Texas A&M received more than \$26.8 million during the 1980 calendar year, which was \$2.5 million more than the year before.

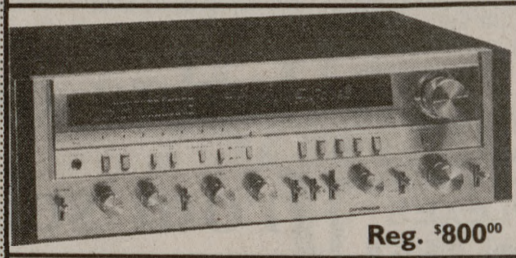
The largest single category contributing to that figure was alumni giving, he said, an area in which Texas A&M leads among public institutions. Former students gave \$9.5 million to Texas A&M in 1980.



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