

Local

Miss Texas A&M tumbles toward pageant title

By DENISE RICHTER

Battalion Staff
Sheri Ryman, reigning Miss Texas and former Miss Texas A&M University, will compete for the title of Miss America Saturday. The pageant will be telecast live from Atlantic City, N.J. on NBC at 9 p.m.

The Hospitality Committee in conjunction with MSC Video will display the pageant on a 72-inch video screen in the main lobby of the MSC.

Ryman, picked by an Illinois computer expert to win the Miss America Pageant, won the talent competition and a \$2,500 scholarship Wednesday by performing a gymnastics-jazz routine to the motion picture theme "Close Encounters of the Third Kind," the

same routine she performed in the Miss Texas Pageant.

George Miller, a professor of business systems and analysis at Northern Illinois University in DeKalb, has used a computer and information about previous winners to correctly predict the winners of the last two Miss America

pageants.

Miller has picked Ryman, a native of Texas City, to win the contest at odds of 6 to 1. Miller says the first runner-up will be Miss Massachusetts with 8 to 1 odds followed by Miss Georgia with 9 to 1 odds.

The winner of the Miss America

Pageant will receive \$20,000 in cash and prizes.

Ryman is attending North Texas State University on a one-year scholarship — one of her Miss Texas prizes — but plans to return to Texas A&M to complete her degree. She is majoring in industrial distribution, a program

offered at only a few universities.

After graduation, she plans to work in the field of engineering sales.

Ryman was accompanied to the contest by native Texan Rita Jenrette, the ex-wife of former South Carolina Rep. John Jenrette, who lost his re-election bid after in-

volvement in the federal government's Abscam bribery investigation.

Mrs. Jenrette is following Ryman to report for a news service on the pageant from the contestant's perspective.

Although Ryman is the first Texas A&M student to be

crowned Miss Texas in the Miss America competition she is not the first beauty pageant winner to come from the University. 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.

Ryman now a student at North Texas State

By DENISE RICHTER

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Miss Texas 1981 may be an Aggie at heart, but in the Miss America Pageant she will be referred to as a student at North Texas State University in Denton.

Sheri Ryman entered the Miss Texas competition as Miss Texas A&M University. However, when she won the Miss Texas crown, she also received a one-year scholarship to NTSU.

"Every contestant, when she enters the Miss Texas Pageant, signs a statement that she will accept all gifts of the pageant should she win or place," said Lindsey Keffer, director of institutional advancement at NTSU.

"We've been doing this (offering the scholarship) for seven years," Keffer said. "It's all done by contract — no other school can offer a scholarship to the winner of the Miss Texas Pageant."

The NTSU scholarship pays for all fees, tuition, board, a private room and books, he said.

Keffer said attending NTSU will be a convenience for Ryman since, as Miss Texas, she is re-

quired to make appearances around the state.

"The professors all know that as Miss Texas, Sheri has a grueling schedule of appearances and events to attend," Keffer said. "When she came up to pre-register, we set her schedule up so she only has classes on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Also, her professors are very understanding — if she misses an assignment or a test, they'll give her the opportunity to make up what she missed."

The industrial distribution major has said she will return to Texas A&M to finish her degree, but she

said her year at NTSU will affect that.

"This will probably postpone my graduation by a year," Ryman said. "Only five schools in the nation offer the industrial distribution program and North Texas isn't one of them."

However, Keffer said Ryman is listed as an industrial distribution major at NTSU. "We don't offer a program by that name but we do offer similar courses," Keffer said. "We've worked with her schedule very carefully — she should be able to transfer back to A&M without any difficulty."



Miss Texas, Sheri Ryman

Today's Almanac

United Press International
Today is Friday, Sept. 11, the 254th day of 1981 with 111 to follow.

The moon is moving toward its full phase.

The morning star is Mars.

The evening stars are Mercury, Venus, Jupiter and Saturn.

Those born on this date are under the sign of Virgo.

American short-story writer O. Henry was born Sept. 11, 1862.

On this date in history:

In 1777, troops of Gen. George Washington were badly defeated by the British in the Battle of Brandywine.

In 1973, the regime of Socialist Salvador Allende of Chile was toppled in a military coup in which he died, reportedly by his own hand.

A thought for the day: American poet Ralph Waldo Emerson said, "Life is not so short but that there is always time for courtesy."



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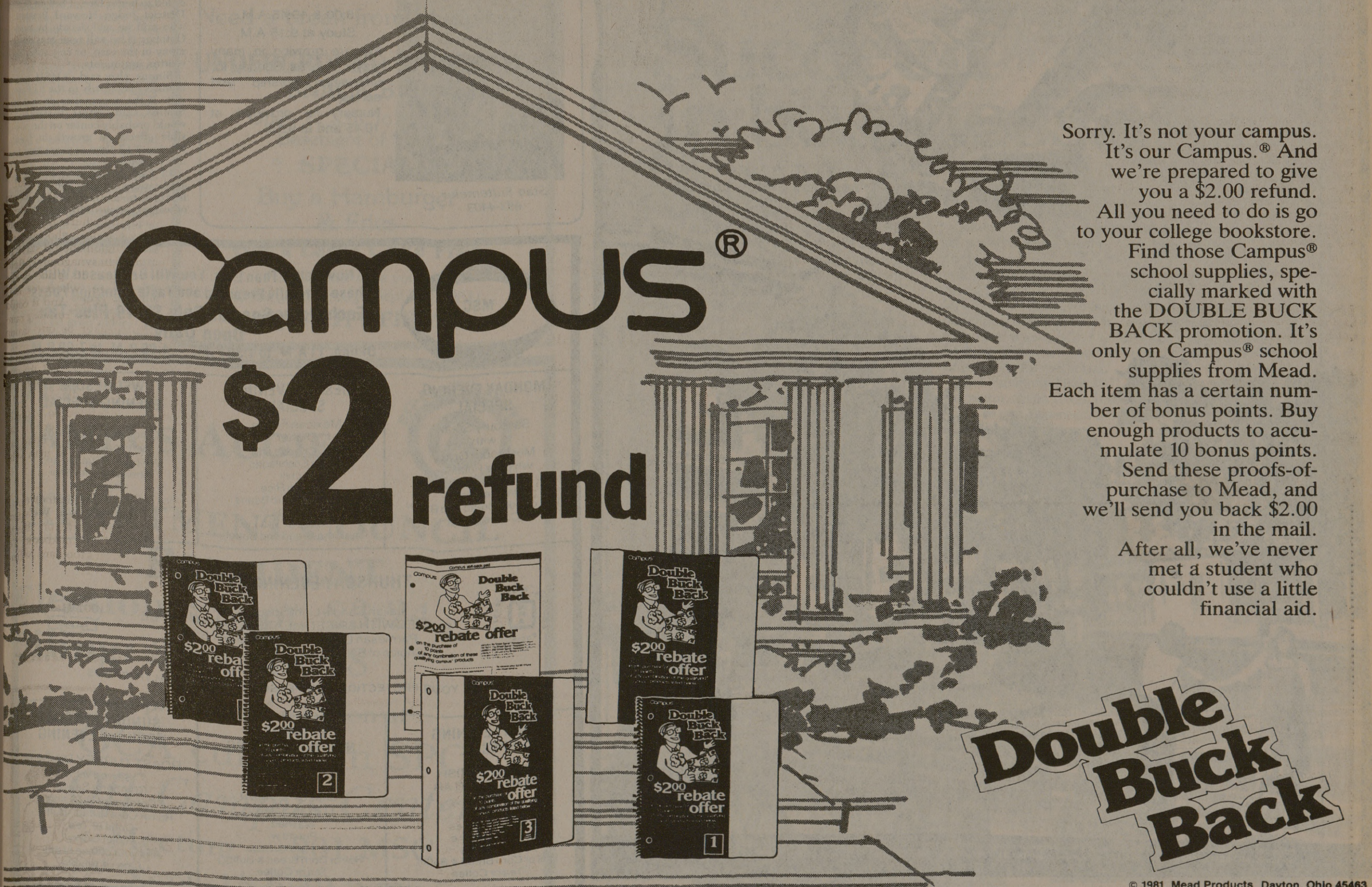


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