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What's up

Friday
STUDY ABROAD OFFICE: will have an informational meeting from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. in 161 Bizzell West for students interested in studying in the United Kingdom.
PUERTO RICAN STUDENTS ASSOCIATION: will have a Christmas meeting at 7:30 p.m. in 404 Rudder.

Saturday
LATTER-DAY SAINT STUDENT ASSOCIATION: will have a "Breakfast Social" at 8:30 a.m. in the Latter-day Saint Institute Building.
MSC LITERARY ARTS: is now accepting submissions for "Litmus." Call 845-1515 for more information.
PARENTS' WEEKEND COMMITTEE: applications for nominating 1987-88 Parents of the Year are available in the Commons, the Sterling C. Evans Library, the Memorial Student Center and the Pavilion.

Items for What's Up should be submitted to The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald, no less than three working days prior to desired publication date.

Miss Texas-USA '87 honored in Bryan, given key to city

By Melanie Perkins
 Staff Writer

Miss Texas-USA 1987 received the key to the City of Bryan Thursday in a ceremony presided over by Mayor Marvin Tate.

Tate proclaimed Thursday to be Michelle Renee Royer Day as he presented her with the key and certificate in a conference room in the Bryan Utilities Building.

Royer was in the area on her third stop in a 10-day tour of Texas as a promotion for Subaru.

Though she has been given the keys to several cities, Royer said this was only the second day proclaimed in her honor. The first was in her hometown of Keller upon her victorious return from the pageant.

Royer said she felt lucky to have stopped in Bryan-College Station.

"When I go to the Miss USA Pageant, I feel I will know a little bit more about Texas," she said.

Royer said she has several friends who go to Texas A&M and she has been here once before for an Aggie football game.

"The Aggies won," she said, "and I think it was because of all the support. I had lots of fun."

Royer is a sophomore at Tarrant County Junior College in Fort Worth, but said she wants to study medicine and will consider attending A&M when her reign is complete.

If she wins the Miss USA Pageant — as the past two Miss Texas-USAs have — she said she will have to put off college for another year, but says she feels it would be worth it.

"Pageants are part of what made me the person I am today," she said. "They gave me confidence and backbone."

Royer said she's learned more about herself and about people in general in the past four months of her reign as Miss Texas-USA than she could have learned in school.

"I realized I had other talents," she said. "I didn't necessarily have to perform on stage to have a talent."

Royer got involved in pageants when she was a senior in high school.

"I got an application in the mail for a teen pageant," she said, "and since I was bored over the Christmas holidays, I filled out the application and mailed it in."

Royer was first runner-up out of 52 girls in that pageant. She continued to enter pageants because she found them a good way to earn scholarship money.

Royer now is speaking and traveling on behalf of the sponsors of the pageant, and preparing to compete in the Miss USA Pageant on Feb. 17.

After receiving the key to the city, Royer had lunch in Cain Hall, visited St. Joseph Hospital's children's ward and signed autographs.

Houston police arrest 16 in Houston car-theft 'sting'

HOUSTON (AP) — Area authorities arrested 16 people who were allegedly fooled into selling stolen cars to officers who were posing as fences in a sting operation that netted \$850,000 in stolen vehicles.

Another 13 people, who police said also sold them stolen cars, were already in jail on unrelated charges, investigators said. They said four others caught in the sting operation Wednesday remained at large.

Police said the suspects were recorded on hidden video cameras when they allegedly sold stolen cars to undercover officers at the PDQ Sales in southwest Houston.

The 33 people — six women and 27 men — were indicted on charges of auto theft in a 77-count indictment unsealed Wednesday.

The operation resulted in the recovery of 69 cars, most of which had been stolen from homes and businesses.

The suspects were willing to accept a meager price for their stolen goods because of the convenience of getting rid of them quickly, police said. Most of the cars were sold less than an hour after stealing them.

"It was clear profit on their end," one undercover officer said. "It cost them nothing to steal the cars."

For instance, a \$27,000 Cadillac with 1,500 miles was bought for only \$400.

More than half the cars were late-model Camaros and Firebirds, and all the vehicles ranged in retail price from \$3,500 to \$27,000. Police were able to purchase the cars at an average of \$250, and no vehicle went for more than \$500, authorities said.

The operation cost about \$18,500, most of which was used to buy the stolen cars, officials said.

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