

**\$3 student
participates
Disney fun**

Pam Mooman
Reporter

"You wish upon a star . . ." familiar strains of this Disney tune lingered in the air at the parade in Orlando, Fla., Saturday, as an A&M graduate student's girlfriend took part in the parade.

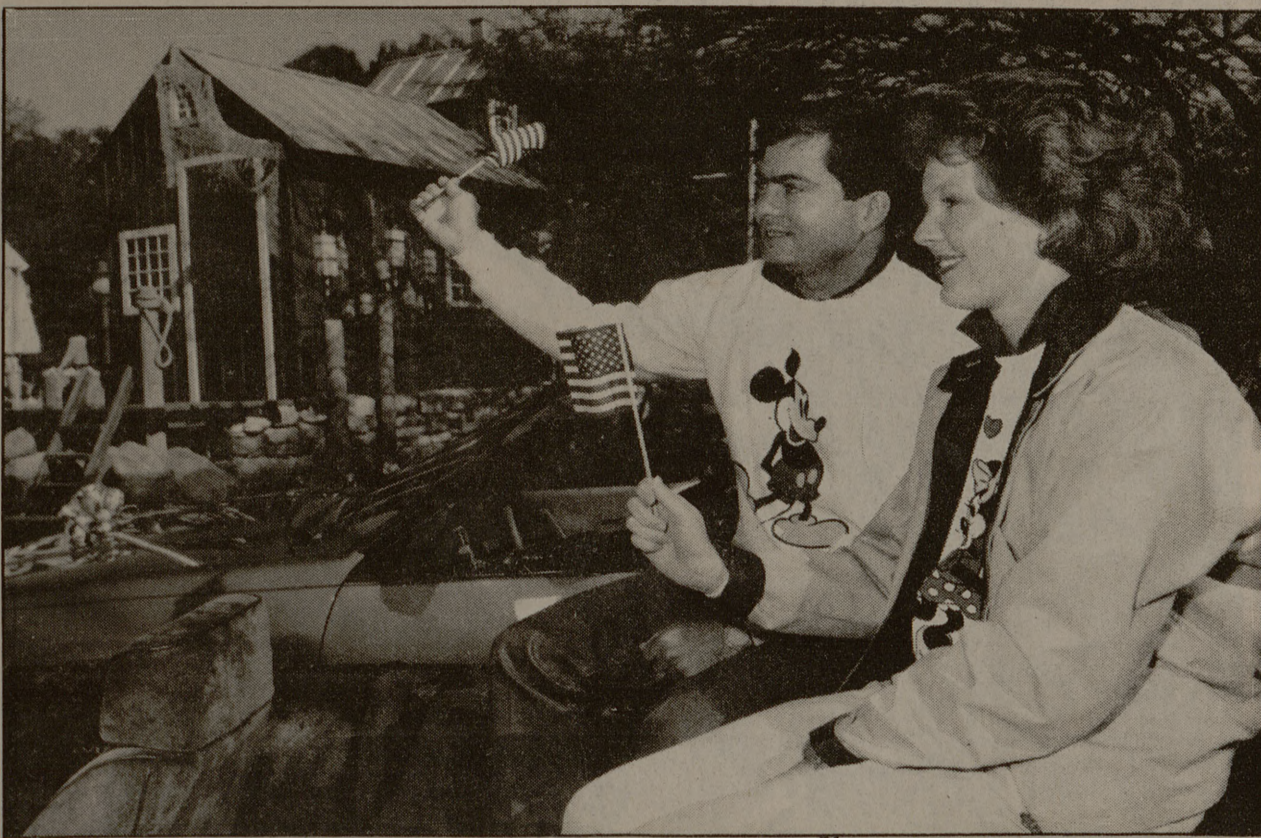


Photo courtesy of the Walt Disney Company

Denise McCullough of Dallas and A&M student Victor Grant of College Station were one of six

grand marshal groups selected to lead a Walt Disney parade on March 15.

"We were from and asked if we would like to participate," Grant said.

McCullough, who has a marketing degree from Southwest Texas State University, said Disney was looking for college students to represent their home states. She was with Grant when he told the Disney employee he was an A&M student.

"He just assumed I was a student," she said.

Being a grand marshal is not complicated, as described by Grant.

"We sat in the back of a car and we waved," Grant said, laughing. "We weren't obligated for anything more than an hour out of our day."

Both grand marshals said the best part of the experience was seeing the reaction of the children to the special magic of a Disney parade.

McCullough said seeing the children waving at her and Grant like they were special made her feel good.

Grant said seeing the smiles on children's faces was rewarding for

him, though only in a non-financial way.

"It made you feel important even though you're a regular person," he said. "But we paid \$20 just like everybody else to get in the park."

So, despite the cool weather, these two Texans enjoyed representing their state in the Disney parade.

Grant summed up their feelings about the experience.

"Couldn't have asked for anything better," he said.

Murder case may test validity of 'DNA fingerprinting'

FORT WORTH (AP) — The validity of a scientific technique to genetically match suspects with crimes may get its first Texas test in a Fort Worth courtroom, officials said.

The new technique, known as "DNA fingerprinting," was used Tuesday to obtain a murder conviction against Barry Dean Kelly, 29, in connection with the strangulation death of Melva I. Teems, 63. No trial date has been set.

The DNA technique — which identifies genetic patterns from blood, semen or other body fluids — already has been used in several states to identify defendants with rapes or to prove paternity.

Tarrant County prosecutors decided to use the DNA technique in the case after reading about it in a newspaper article published at the time of Teems' death last October.

Officers said Mary Copeland, the victim's daughter, reported her missing Oct. 6.

Police found Teems' pickup abandoned in an isolated area later that day. Eleven days later, police found Teems' decomposing body near a dirt road 10 miles north of the truck.

Police obtained two of Kelly's fingerprints from the truck, but prosecutors said they wanted a better link to her assailant since Kelly had sold

the woman another automobile a few months earlier.

Results of the DNA tests on Teems' semen-stained bedcovers showed that Kelly had contact with the victim around the time of her disappearance, investigators said.

Proponents of DNA fingerprinting say it can link evidence such as blood, semen, tissue and hair to a person better than any other technique.

Some scientists and legal scholars have reservations about use of the test in criminal cases. They say samples need to be larger than most crimes produce and special equipment is required, making costs relatively high.

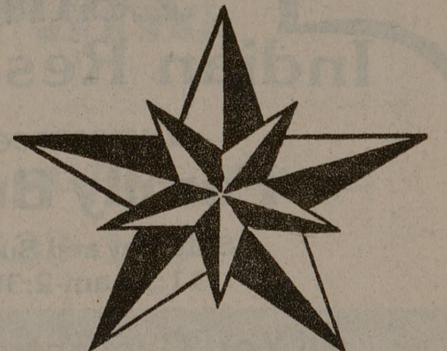
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