

Monday, February 27, 1989

## Sophomore from Hurst claims Miss TAMU title

### Judges select Amy Hopkins from 18 contestants

By Sharon Maberry

STAFF WRITER

Amy Hopkins, a sophomore elementary education major from Hurst, was chosen Miss TAMU at the 1989 Texas A&M University Scholarship Pageant Saturday.

Hopkins and 17 other contestants, who were chosen in November in a preliminary screening, were judged in talent, swimsuit and evening gown categories.

The talent competition comprised 50 percent of contestants' total scores. The other 50 percent was distributed evenly among the swimsuit, evening gown and interview categories. Interviews were conducted before the pageant and focused on local, national and world events.

The talent competition included singers, dancers and instrumentalists.

Rhonda Jo Horn of Seymour was first runner-up. Anna Fuhrman of Kilgore was second runner-up. Paris North of DeSoto was third runner-up and LaDonna Priest of Conroe won fourth runner-up. Sharron Melton of San Antonio was the non-finalist

talent winner for singing "Believe in Yourself" from the movie "The Wiz." Shelli Innon of Euless was the non-finalist swimsuit winner.

The 10th annual pageant, titled "A Decade of Dreams," also was a time for recognizing former winners of the pageant, who were invited to attend.

Among the five judges were two former Miss TAMUs, Sheri Ryman and Cindy Green Weber. Ryman was chosen Miss TAMU in 1981 and won the Miss Texas title that year. Weber, first runner-up for 1981 Miss TAMU, assumed the role after Ryman won Miss Texas.

The other three judges, R.L. McIntire, Genny Lawrence and Michael Alexander, have had extensive experience with pageants. Executive Director of the MSC Pageant Committee Roy Dealy said.

McIntire, an associate with Professional Investigators & Associates, Inc. in Fort Worth, has worked with pageants for more than 25 years. Lawrence, a vice-president and loan officer at a Fort Worth bank, has worked with pageants for more than 10 years. Alexander is the director of music for the Spring Branch Christian Church in Houston and produced and directed the 1989 Miss Houston Scholarship Pageant.

## Train hits truck after driver tries to make it through intersection

By Juliette Rizzo

STAFF WRITER

A pickup truck was broadsided by a train late Friday night after the driver tried to beat the locomotive through an intersection at F&B Road near Wellborn Road in Bryan, a Bryan Police Department spokesman said.

The passenger, Jimmy Foster, of Bryan, was treated and released for minor injuries at St. Joseph Hospital, and the driver, Martin Lee Stewart, 22, of Bryan, was arrested on charges of driving while intoxicated.

Sgt. Mike Hallmark of the BPD said the crossing arms at the intersection were down at the time of the collision. Hallmark said the conductor of the Union Pacific train told him a couple of drivers went around the arms, and then the driver of the truck tried to make it.

"They were going real slow, about 7 mph, on this part because of all the train wrecks they've had there," Hallmark said.

The train hit the truck on the passenger door and dragged the vehicle about 40 yards from the intersection.

The collision occurred about 11:20 p.m., and Texas A&M students reported hearing the collision from as far away as the north side of the A&M campus.

Stewart was released on a \$500 bond Saturday after being charged with the class A misdemeanor of driving while intoxicated, for the second time.



Photo by Tim Dorney

Martin Lee Stewart of Bryan answers questions from a Bryan police officer after driving his truck in front of a northbound train at an intersection of F&B Road near Wellborn Road. Stewart had successfully dodged a southbound train before he was hit by the northbound train.

## Crime victims' rights group decries sentence of man who killed toddler

AUSTIN (AP) — A crime victims' rights group is deprecating the life sentence given a man who beat and eventually killed a 15-month-old girl and who could be eligible for parole in as few as five years.

In a hearing that took about one minute, state District Judge Mace Thurman on Thursday sentenced Hugh James Gallagher in the August crime that the prosecutor said was among the most heinous and cold-blooded he had ever seen.

Gallagher could be eligible for parole in five years because he didn't use a deadly weapon such as a knife or a gun when killing Casey Joan McManus.

Even though parole eligibility

doesn't ensure his release, a spokesman for a statewide crime victims' rights group said the possibility that Gallagher could serve that short of a sentence was "sickening."

Joyce Isaacs, spokesman for the People Against Violent Crimes, said the group endorses a task force recommendation for legislation to require that all people convicted of murder — regardless of the deadly weapon finding — be required to serve one-fourth of their sentences or 15 years, whichever is less, before being considered for parole.

"I think this case must send a signal to the Legislature to change the law," Isaacs said of the McManus case.

"This child was murdered in the shadow of the Capitol. The parole board doesn't make the laws and the Texas Department of Corrections doesn't make the laws. The laws that govern criminal punishment are made in the Legislature right in the middle of this town, and (legislators) need to be held accountable for them."

"I personally think the term deadly weapon is ridiculous," she said. "If someone is dead, something is deadly."

Buddy Myer, an assistant district attorney who handled the case, said it bothers him to know that Gallagher will be eligible for parole consideration in such a short period of time.

## Father puzzled after son arrested for murder

LAKE JACKSON (AP) — The father of a 19-year-old youth accused of killing his mother and grandmother said he has no idea what prompted the fatal shootings.

Larry Strauther said his son, Larnell, gave no indication that anything was wrong shortly before he was arrested Tuesday and charged with murder in the deaths of his mother, Linda White, 35, and

grandmother, Mazie Williams, 54. The youth remained in jail in lieu of \$200,000 bond.

Both women's bodies remained in a bedroom of their house for 12 days before being discovered, Brazoria County Sheriff's officials said.

The jailed youth's father said things seemed normal before the arrest.

"He was not the kind of kid who

would do something like that," Strauther said Thursday. "Something must have snapped in his mind." He said he still is puzzled about what happened Feb. 9 at his ex-wife's home.

The 37-year-old father said he cannot believe his son would kill his relatives and then stay around the murder scene for nearly two weeks.

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1.61	5,325	11,000	.19	165	300	.58	1,375	2,600
1.51	3,875	9,000	.18	155	290	OVAL		
1.43	5,550	11,500	.16	118	250			
1.33	2,475	5,000	.15	111	240	1.61	\$5,875	\$11,000
1.18	2,325	4,600	.14	95	200	1.21	2,890	6,500
1.17	2,750	5,200	EMERALD			1.11	2,750	6,400
1.11	2,350	4,650	Carat	Our price	Compare at	1.03	2,575	5,000
1.03	3,595	8,500	2.16	\$8,500	\$17,000	1.01	1,150	2,300
1.06	1,975	4,000	1.37	4,850	9,000	.99	2,375	4,500
1.03	2,195	4,200	.73	1,850	3,200	.71	1,450	3,000
1.03	3,875	9,000	.47	695	1,350	.70	1,395	2,950
1.00	2,750	5,200	PRINCESS/RADIANT			.62	1,275	2,500
1.00	1,650	3,300	Carat	Our price	Compare at	.58	1,195	2,300
.95	2,395	4,700	1.11	\$2,750	\$5,000	.58	995	2,000
.93	1,595	3,200	1.02	1,650	3,200	.53	1,225	2,500
.92	1,650	3,300	.99	2,570	5,000	.51	1,095	2,000
.91	3,195	6,400	.81	2,385	4,500	.50	1,050	2,000
.90	1,750	3,500	.62	1,475	2,800	.40	105	200
.89	1,350	2,700	.52	1,250	2,400	PEAR		
.88	1,340	2,700	.33	395	800	Carat	Our price	Compare at
.85	1,685	3,300	.28	385	800	2.14	\$5,850	\$11,700
.84	2,150	4,200	.25	325	600	1.75	5,425	11,000
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.81	2,250	4,500	small	\$12 <sup>95</sup>		.43	3,780	7,000
.76	1,360	2,700	large	\$21 <sup>95</sup>		1.24	4,285	8,000
.70	1,235	2,500				1.21	2,375	4,600
.64	895	1,700				1.21	3,475	6,500
.64	1,325	2,700				1.01	2,675	4,900
.62	795	1,500				.64	1,295	2,600
.60	795	1,500				.60	1,150	2,300
.57	795	1,500				.58	995	1,900
.56	895	1,700				.52	665	1,300
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