

# Beauty Woes

## 21 states have never won the Miss America pageant

By John Curran  
 THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. — Miss Vermont never wins. Neither does Miss North Dakota, Miss Montana or Miss New Mexico.

In the Miss America pageant, it's usually women from Southern states or populous ones — where state-level competition is the stiffest — who triumph.

Through 82 years of Miss America contests, there are still 21 states that have never had a representative win the crown. Experts say it's a combination of factors, including a contestant's pageant experience and the level of competition she faced before getting to Atlantic City.

Those who grow up in places where pageants are big tend to get involved earlier and achieve more once they do.

"Down in the South, there is a tremendous beauty pageant culture," said former pageant television producer Angela Osborne, author of "Miss America: The Dream Lives On."

"It has to do with the culture of being pretty and feminine and winning pageants. There are states that have huge numbers of child pageants. It's a huge business and it promotes the idea that women are born to be pretty, from infancy," said Osborne, a former member of the pageant's television production staff.

There are other factors. Pageant organizations with deep roots in the community, steady sponsorship and a history of success in Atlantic City tend to fare well when their women reach Atlantic City.

"The ones that succeed are the ones with good foundations at the state level, the ones with strong executive boards who run the pageant like a business," said Lois Elaine Smith-Zoll, a Miss Washington Scholarship Pageant board member. "You see this in Texas, you see it in South Carolina. These are states with a profile of pageantry."

The difference is evident in the numbers.

This year's Miss Texas pageant had 47 women. Texas has had three women win Miss America.

This year's Miss California pageant had 52 women competing. California has had six Miss Americas, the most of any state.

By comparison, the Montana pageant had eight, despite being an "open" pageant, meaning anyone who wants to can compete. In bigger states, contestants must win preliminary pageants to try for the state title.

Miss Montana Amber Shipman acknowledges that many of the other 50 women in the Sept. 20 pageant have better chances.

"These girls are here to win, they really want to be Miss America, and so do I," said Shipman, 19, of Glendive, Mont. "But I don't have that competitive nature from competing so many times like some of them."

Miss Wyoming Tamara Kocher, who beat out 10 other women to win her state title, said she didn't get the kind of financial support winners from big pageant states get for modeling coaches, trainers and other pageant preparation experts.

"You don't have that knowledge and you don't have the money to get all the training you need to compete successfully," said Kocher, 22, of Gillette, Wyo. "Plus, it's hard to get your state to support you when your state has never been very successful (in Atlantic City) in the past," Kocher said.

Miss Texas Sunni Cranfill says she's a better contestant for having bested 46 others for her title. The fact that it was her fifth appearance in a state pageant — three in Texas, two in Arkansas — also may help her.

"I'm seasoned, I guess you could say," said Cranfill, 23, of Hooks, Texas. "I know the ropes. I know what to expect, but I don't know the judges. I wish I could say I have an advantage, but at this point, you can never tell."

Sloan said Monday he remains committed to Baylor.

"You don't deal with problems by running away from them," he said. "I actually feel very confident of the support of Baylor regents. I'm very confident of the support of Baylor students, faculty, staff and our alumni. So, I'm really, I'm very optimistic about the future."

Regents Carl Bell, Mary Chavanne-Martin, Toby Druin, Jaclanel McFarland and John Wilkerson called for Sloan's dismissal Monday because of what they described as "mounting challenges and problems" that were exacerbated by the summer's problems in the basketball program.

The letter requested a vote of the full board on Sloan's future. It would take 19 of the 36 regents to approve dismissal. The regents met Thursday and Friday.

### Vote

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The group's announcement appeared timed to blunt any negative action against Sloan by the 33-member faculty senate. Earlier Tuesday, one senator, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said Sloan critics believed they had the votes to pass the no-confidence vote.

Chuck Weaver, the senate's immediate past chairman, said he did not know what action the senate would take.

The meeting came amid mounting pressure from some circles for Sloan, who has headed the world's largest Baptist university for eight years, to step down.

In recent days, five of Baylor's 36 regents and three former regent chairmen have called for Sloan's resignation.

### File-sharing

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bandwidth and notify those students."

The swapping of music files has been a crucial issue for the music industry—and it's said to be responsible for the \$2 billion decline in sales over the past four years, according to the RIAA.

Marti said he'd rather inform students of the legalities of downloading music and movie files so they have the knowledge behind the issue. He said being educated about it may be the best way to get to the root of the problem.

Computing & Information Services has provided a Web page set to warn students about the legalities; including the information that file swapping is against TAMU rules. Visit <http://itim.tamu.edu/filessharing.html> for more information.

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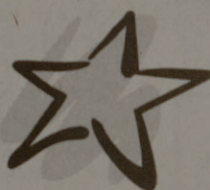
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 Wednesday, September 10, 2003  
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