

The campus of California State University, Fresno is but a half-hour drive from the town of Reedley. Wanting to stay "close to home," Jane Olvera decided to begin her college career at CSUF. After a year and a half at the Fresno campus, that half-hour drive has taken Jane much further than she ever expected.

"The university is such a melting pot, and it's easy to feel a part of it," she explains. "I think that is the big attraction. I spend a lot of time in the College Union. At any time of day, you can see people from anywhere in the world."

Jane's interest in the diversity of culture on campus is illustrated in her major, International Relations. She is determined to combine her desire to see the world with her life's work.

"It's always been a dream of mine to be in a job where you travel around the world, in a business associate capacity. People from other countries fascinate me.

"Already, CSUF has made me feel I made a good choice. The cultures are blended so well. I am more open-minded to the diversity of life. I'm much more aware and willing to accept. I've come out of my small-town shell."

A straight-'A' student in high school, Jane says she quickly realized the difference in high school and collegiate study requirements.

"I've always enjoyed school and wanted to learn more. Studies came easy in

high school. Then, during my first semester here, I got my first 'B.' I was crushed.

"But I realized from that experience that you don't have to get an 'A' to learn. That doesn't mean I have given up on going for the 'A,' though."

By her own admission, Jane pushed herself in high school to excel both academically and personally. Now that she has some college experience under her belt, her attitude has changed.

"The atmosphere here is relaxed. I've realized that college can be fun. I think I'd like to enjoy it while I can. I'm not going to rush through college just to hurry and get done. I'm going to take it for all it is worth."

Taking it easy, however, is not one of this sophomore's strong suits. She juggles a hectic schedule that includes commuting, attending CSUF, working part-time, and preparing herself physically and mentally for competition in "scholastic pageants." A participant since the age of 14, she now faces her stiffest challenge yet, the Miss California title.

"In October, I was named Miss Reedley, which was always a dream. As a result, I qualified for the Miss California Pageant and I have become really involved in civic affairs in my hometown. Competing has also made my mother and I very close.

"Competing at this level, looking ahead to the Miss California competition, it would be easy to let school slide, but I know that



college has to be a priority. Pageants are a close second though."

**Jane Olvera**  
Sophomore

During the 1987-88 academic year, Jane was named one of the inaugural recipients of the University Lecture Series Scholarships offered at CSUF. She traces her success in school, in pageants and in life to her "positive mental attitude."

"In high school, a lot of students were there just to get out of school. In college, they're here because they want to be. I think my generation has very high ideals. We're going somewhere.

"You set mini-goals as you go along," she concludes. "Each day can be a success. Long-range, the only way to get there is through education. My time here is definitely a stepping-stone in my life. Success, to me, is always stepping forward."