

Miss America makes stop in Lexington; principal is honored

Debra Sue Maffett said a young woman can never be prepared for the amount of hard work involved in being Miss America.

"It's 10 percent glamour and 90 percent hard work," the reigning Miss America told a press conference at Blue Grass Airport yesterday afternoon.

"I travel 20,000 miles a month, seven days week. Every other day I'm in a different city. I had four days off at Christmas, and often I put in a 20-hour work day," said Miss Maffett, who didn't look the least bit travel-weary when she stepped off the plane. She wore a three-quarter-length fox jacket over a purple crocheted-looking dress.

Miss Maffett is in Lexington to participate in the Miss Fayette County Area Scholarship Pageant at 8 tonight in Haggin Auditorium at Transylvania University.

Miss Maffett said she wanted to correct a misconception that many Americans have about the Miss America pageant.

"It is not a beauty pageant," she said. "It is (based) 50 percent on talent. It is the largest scholarship organization in the world for young women."

Do you remember what singer closed her evening television program warbling "See the USA in a Chevrolet. America is asking you to call"?

You guessed right if you said Dinah Shore, America's singing sweetheart of a few years back.

Word is that Shore is being considered as a possible "name entertainer" to headline the Picnic with the Pops spring concert May 21 at the Kentucky Horse Park. Several weeks ago John

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Davidson was mentioned as an entertainer for the event.

Mayor Scotty Baesler will announce the details of this year's first Picnic with the Pops at a press conference Wednesday morning, and then we'll know for sure who's coming.

Raymond Burse, president of Kentucky State University, will be in select company this summer when Rhodes Scholars from throughout the world meet in Oxford, England, for the 80th anniversary of the founding of the scholarship program.

Burse, a 1973 Rhodes Scholar, studied organic chemistry for two years at St. Johns College at Oxford University.

He said a significant impact of his experience at Oxford was that it made him "appreciate being an American more."

"It represented the first time I was out of the continental U.S. . . . It's hard to be in a country where you are constantly criticized and not feel patriotic," he said.

For the last 10 years, Dorothy Cooper, principal of Russell Elementary School, has allowed University of Kentucky students studying to become teachers to visit her school on a special UK-sponsored program.

Usually working as teacher's aides, the college students are there to understand some of the obstacles to learning that may be present in a class-

room, such as racism, sexism and poverty. Rather than simply read about the problems in a textbook, the students come face to face with many of them during their two-semester stint at Russell Elementary.

In appreciation for the Russell principal's cooperation with this program, the UK College of Education is having a reception in her honor from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Wednesday in the faculty lounge of Dickey Hall on the UK campus.

She just wants to be called "Wendy."

Wendy was on drugs for 15 years. For three years now she has been "clean." The support group that helped Wendy with her drug-abuse problem is Narcotics Anonymous, which she helped organize about 12 months ago.

Through meetings and talking to other former addicts who are trying to go straight, Wendy now knows she is not alone.

"People are out there struggling everyday like I am to recover from our disease," she said in a telephone conversation.

The success of the group indicates that it is serving a need, she said. From its initially sporadic meetings with five or six individuals in attendance, Narcotics Anonymous now holds six meetings a week with as many as 40 people showing up.

At 7 p.m. Friday at the Arlington Christian Church, Narcotics Anonymous will have a potluck supper to celebrate its first year of helping people with "hugs not drugs."

It is an open meeting. Guests are just asked to bring a covered dish and a dessert or vegetable. More information is available by calling 278-6757.



Miss America Debra Maffett is greeted by reigning Miss Kentucky Gwen Witten.

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