

STREET SCENE

Inside **S**²

Pickup artists?

Where do you find a nice girl or boy to date? Some folks have decided to chuck the traditional methods for the more modern computer dating services. But for some, it's not all it's cracked up to be. See Page 6D.

Monday, July 25, 1988 O&E

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

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Going **A** it

By Peggy Aulino
staff writer

At 5 p.m., the television in her office is turned on so she can see what the competition is doing. The day's top story is the weather — the temperature in Detroit reached 101 degrees, breaking a record.

Content at seeing what stories the other stations chose to start off their newscasts, she switches to Channel 4. Then she settles in front of the makeup mirror that's propped on her desk. Between applying mascara and twisting her brown hair around a curling iron, she reaches for a paper cup full of Coke and takes a sip.

"People always assume we have someone to do our hair and makeup," she said. "I just throw it on at the last minute."

The last minute is approaching, but Margie Reedy doesn't dwell on the fact that her face is about to be beamed into thousands of living rooms.

This has not been a typical day. For one thing, she had time for a lunch break.

"There have been some times when, at 5:20, I'm in the editing booth putting on my makeup with one hand and writing scripts with the other," she said.

On this day, with a few minutes to go before she's due on the set, Reedy shows no signs of being in a hurry or having any jitters.

"I THINK if I got nervous every day I would be in big trouble," Reedy said. Instead, she casually strolls from her office to the studio and takes a seat next to co-anchor Emery King. They each shuffle around some papers and chat about nothing in particular.

But when the floor director says "standby," smiles are straightened and smiles wiped off faces. It's 5:30 — showtime, folks.

Reedy, a Birmingham resident, wears two hats at WDIV-TV. She's part anchor, part reporter. Her work day usually starts around 9 or 10 a.m. and lasts until she signs off at 6 p.m.

On this particular day, she was at Detroit City Hall at 10:30 a.m. The assignment was covering a public hearing on a proposed pension increase for elected officials.

Reedy is a general assignment reporter; she doesn't know from day to day where the editors will send her. Before this morning, she said, she knew "not a thing" about the pension debate.

"That's one of the most difficult things about this job; you are constantly thrown into different situations," Reedy said. Before sundown, she becomes somewhat of an expert on the pension issue.

Reedy sits through the meeting, scribbling notes on a yellow legal pad. When there's a break in the action, she motions for the cameraman to follow her into the hallway. There, she corners some of the people who've been testifying before council.

ONE MAN answers her questions authoritatively, but when the interview is over, he turns from a source into a fan.

"It's nice to see you in person," he told Reedy, offering a big smile. "You come into our home, and we feel like we know you."

There are pros and cons to being highly recognizable, Reedy said. "It's like you're automatically a friend," she said, but instant friendships can be disconcerting at times.



Channel 4 reporter/anchor Margie Reedy has station in an "itty bitty Texas town." But she's taking the notoriety of her business in stride.

"They make no bones about commenting on your hair, your makeup," Reedy said. "They always tell you you look better in person."

One time Reedy had to wear glasses on the air because she was having problems with her contact lenses. When the show was over, she answered a phone only to hear: "Tell Margie Reedy to get those glasses off."

"They do feel, I guess, like you are part of their family, so they'll say anything to you," she said.

Reedy was born in Chicago in 1957 and moved to Texas with her family as a teenager. She earned a degree from Southwest Texas State University, said in her best Lobe Star state accent. She started out majoring in English and drama.

"I thought, it's all very interesting, but I'm going to starve," she recalled.

So she went into journalism and followed the advice of a professor who told her she belonged in broadcasting. Reedy cut her teeth in the business in a "little bitty west Texas" town.

"WHEN I started out I had one polyester suit. Thank God, I only worked weekends and could keep changing the looks of that suit," she said.

Reedy landed the job in Detroit four years ago, and now she owns more than one suit. In fact, her contract includes a wardrobe allowance.

"Every day, when you go to work, you have to look nice. It's not like you can slide," she said. The clothing allowance "makes it a lot easier in the morning when you are going through the closet trying to figure out what to wear."

Having to look one's best and be ready for anything are not the only challenges Reedy's job presents. Like it or not, her public position has affected her personal life.

She tries to watch out for herself "like any single woman does," but she's not just any single woman. She has found some men are too intimidated to ask her out, and others want to date her so they can have a celebrity on their arm.

"You just need somebody who is confident in himself," she said.

Reedy turned 30 last November and that "was kind of tough." It forced her to do some re-evaluating.

"When I was a kid, I always thought that when I was 30 I would have everything together — the job, the husband, the kids," Reedy said. "When that wasn't all there, it made me reassess things."

"Marrying and having children are definitely in the plan," but "I guess I just pushed it back a little bit," she said.

DURING THE 5:30 news, lots of friendly banter goes on. The viewing audience is privy to some of it; the rest is the harmless bawling around that occurs between co-workers.

Reedy has to hang around after completing her anchor duties to do the pension increase story during the 6 p.m. news. After that, her work day is done.

She'll leave the office for her home in the suburbs and tend to her two dogs. Later, she might relax in front of the television. She doesn't watch all that much TV, but two of her favorite programs are "Moonlighting" and "L.A. Law."

"All the yuppie shows. What can I say?" Reedy said.

R.U. Sirius

Karlos Barney

GREAT MASTER, I BECAME ONE WITH A FENDER OF A '68 DODGE. MY CONSCIOUSNESS ENTERED THE HOOD AND CAME OUT THE TRUNK.

NOT TO WORRY GRASSHOPPER — YOU MERELY HAD AN AUTO-BODY EXPERIENCE.



Georgia bound? Don't miss Clayton

By Iris Sanderson Jones
contributing travel editor

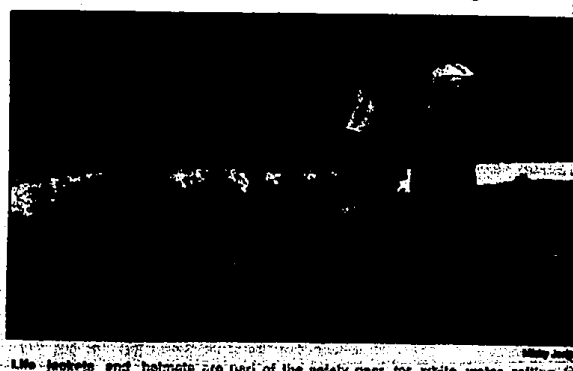
Q: I want to take a mountain vacation somewhere in the southeast with a group of six friends. Can you recommend a place where we can enjoy the mountains, visit craft shops and maybe do a little river rafting?

A: You can enjoy mountain vacations in several of the southeastern states that border the Appalachian Mountain chain — West Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, North and South Carolina, Georgia.

I've stayed in a cottage in Pine Mountain State Park in Kentucky, explored the Smokies around Gatlinburg, Tenn., and driven through the mountains near Asheville, N.C. I would happily recommend any of them.

My most recent mountain venture was into the mountains of northeastern Georgia. I stayed in Clayton in Rabun County at the very northeastern corner of the state near the borders of North and South Carolina.

I was in Georgia for other reasons, so I rented a car in Atlanta and drove north to Clayton, with several tourist stops along the way.



Life jackets and helmets are part of the safety gear for white water rafting in Georgia.

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