

COURIER-JOURNAL

SOUTHERN TIER-AUBURN GENEVA

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'Up with People' Visit Has Local Connections

By Martin Toombs
 Southern Tier Editor

Horseheads — The infectious enthusiasm of two "Up with People" cast members had two local college students who are joining the group this summer counting the days before they leave.

Up with People, the singing group known for transferring its enthusiasm to its audiences, will be performing in Elmira and Corning this week. Four cast members have been in the area promoting the shows. They also have given Ann Fedele and Joseph Drake an opportunity to learn about what they will be doing for the next year.

Former members of Celebrate Life, the Horseheads based singing group, they are following in the footsteps of other "CL" members. The cast includes Beth Kevin, a CL member when she was attending Notre Dame High School as a foreign exchange student from Nigeria.

Also performing in other

casts are Bill Karski and Martha McCoy.

Meeting at the Fedele home, two of the cast members left Ms. Fedele and Drake all the more anxious to start their year with the group.

That will come June 28 for Ms. Fedele, who attended Nazareth College this year. She will travel to the University of Arizona to start a six-week training period as a piano player.

Drake, who attended Buffalo State, will leave July 5. Four 100-person casts will form this summer; the fifth forms in January.

It was Callie Larson of Billings, Mont., and Anne Thompson of Mobile, Ala., that had the two counting the days.

While they were excited about traveling when they joined, they both chimed in to say that staying with host families has "been the neatest part" of the experience. "People are really generous," Ms. Thompson said, even those who can't afford to have guests.

They also emphasized that cast selections are based on an interview, not musical ability. The year of "giving" requires people who can do that. The group feels that musical talent can be brought out of anyone.

Cast members pay \$4,800 tuition to the program, of which Ms. Larson said "I think of it as a college tuition we pay," which will result in more learning than would occur in a classroom. Cast members can get college credit during the year, possibly amounting to a semester's work, depending on what courses they choose to take and how much work they can manage.

The local performances, sponsored jointly by the Elmira Lions Club and the Corning Hospital, will be at 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, June 10, at the Corning Community College, and at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, June 11, at Elmira Free Academy. Tickets are \$5.50 for adults, \$4.50 for students and senior citizens.

While in Corning, the cast will be practicing its show in Spanish, as it will leave soon to tour Spain.



Mary's Day

Amanda Mospan, above, a kindergarten pupil, carries the crown to be placed on the statue of Mary in May Crowning ceremonies at Immaculate Conception School, Ithaca, May 29.

Right, Sister Rita Rutzke, Immaculate Conception third grade teacher, and some of her students praying the Rosary during the school's May Crowning ceremony.



Difficulties Didn't Stop 'Typical' Nursing Student

By Martin Toombs
 Southern Tier Editor

Elmira — She and her husband left Philadelphia to live on a farm in East Smithfield, Pa., from which she traveled 70 miles each day round trip to attend St. Joseph's School of Nursing.

The mother of four got her nursing education despite totally destroying a car on a wintry day when the roads were so bad that the state trooper didn't want to drive her to the hospital, although she was pregnant. Time lost: two days.

Later her youngest, now 10 months old, was born. Time lost: eight days.

Despite the difficulties, Janet Zoltowski was graduated with 25 classmates from the nursing school on June 6, and started work at the Robert Packer Hospital in Sayre, Pa. Her job will allow her husband to enter nursing school in the fall.

Just before graduation, Mrs. Zoltowski insisted that her story is more typical than exceptional.

Her husband, John, worked in the Philadelphia fire department when they decided to leave the city. Mrs. Zoltowski had been in a medical technician program before they left, but it was to pick up applications for her husband that she first visited St. Joseph's School of Nursing. She enrolled herself in the fall of 1978.

Now that she is finished, her husband, who has been working at Masonite in Wysox, Pa., plans to go to nursing school himself in the fall, although plans haven't been finalized.

Three years ago, when she started, she wasn't afraid of the commitment. Mrs. Zoltowski said. But then she didn't know about the pregnancy and a period of unemployment for her husband, problems that would make her think, "Oh, God, get me out of this."

But now that she's finished, she stated that "I'm no different than anybody else," and that "there's a lot of them out there" doing the same thing.

When she became pregnant, she recalled, many suggested that she take time off to have the baby. She said that "I couldn't afford to lose the time," and credited her mother, who lives with her and helps care for the children, and Sister Remigia McHenry, school director, with making it possible to continue.

One other difficulty she had in getting to class occurred on those occasions when she started out in the morning, only to find that the family's animals, including six horses and a couple calves, were in the road and had to be caught.

Her final practical experience, in St. Joseph's Emergency Room, pointed out the value of all she has

learned and expects to continue learning. Most "ER" patients are not emergency cases, she said, but the one trauma case she saw left her impressed with the sophisticated skill and efficiency of the nursing staff.

With her schooling completed, she pledged not "to look at a book for at least a year." But later she stated that she expects to continue her learning throughout her career, and not stop when she changes from a student's blue uniform to a nurse's white.

Elmira Schools Launch 'Fundarama'

Elmira — The largest fund raising event ever undertaken by the Elmira Catholic school system will be its "Fundarama" scheduled for Saturday, June 20, and Sunday, June 21, at Dunn Field.

A softball game at 6:30 p.m., Saturday, will begin the event. An admission charge of \$1 for adults, 50 cents for students in grades one through eight, will be charged. Players will be teachers, parents, priests, and Chemung County General Education Board members. Refreshments will be available beginning at 6 p.m.

Sunday's varied activities will begin at noon, and will include Olympic-style competition for children, musical presentations, and many booths.

The competitions, from

Officers Elected

Elmira — New officers of the St. Casimir's Parish Rosary-Sacred Heart Society recently were elected. Serving for the coming year will be: Joy Spiraw, president; Nannette Mandeville, vice president; Kathleen Augustine, secretary; Flo Winiecki, treasurer; and Theresa Youngman, marshal.

noon until 4 p.m., will be conducted following pre-registration in the schools.

May Lu Walker, the Corning singer-songwriter, will open the musical portion of the program at 1:30 p.m. Celebrate Life, the Horseheads-based teenage singing group will perform at 5 p.m. Students from Notre Dame High School will present at Children's Theater at 6:30 p.m. And at 7:30 p.m., "Clay Blandford and the Aristocrats" will be on stage.

Booths will include baked goods, arts and crafts, and a plant booth. Some of the arts and crafts will be activity booths, with participants getting the opportunity to make their own items.

There also will be a chicken barbecue from 1 to 6 p.m., Sunday. Tickets are \$3.50 for a dinner of half a chicken, and \$2.50 for a quarter.

St. Joseph's Project Gets First Approval

Painted Post — St. Joseph's Hospital's "Project 600" renovation and expansion program received its first approval at a meeting June 1 at the Holiday Inn following a presentation by hospital officials.

The Southern Tier Subarea Council of the Finger Lakes Health Systems Agency gave its approval to the building plan, adding comments on the operation of the new units the plan establishes.

The task force reviewing the estimated \$20 million project agreed that the renovation and modernization plan was needed, but offered a reduction in the proposed 20-bed alcoholism unit to 15 beds, a move which the council overturned.

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The council also considered and rejected a request that St. Joseph's look into placing its alcoholism unit in the nearby Elmira Psychiatric Center.

The plan also establishes a unit of 25 psychiatric beds, with five of them being secure.

The final resolution then received unanimous support. The plan went before the second step in the review process Tuesday, June 9, when it was studied by the Regional Review Council at its meeting in Farmington.

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