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Produced by Glenn Smith Presents, Inc.

Decker

Continued from page 3A

"Everyone on the show said 'I hate drama,' and I say 'yeah right, that is why you are on reality television,'" Decker said. "The RV was smaller than my bathroom, and things just pop so much in that environment, more drama than the viewer even sees."

Decker said she was surprisingly happy with the way she was portrayed on the show because there is enough material to make everybody just who they want them to be.

"You are at the mercy of the editors, and their job is to create a storyline."

Decker said the only slight misunderstanding was the way her relationship with fellow cast member, Dave Giuntoli, was portrayed.

"It was not what they made it out to be. We became so close, and he was definitely my sanity on the trip," she said.

Giuntoli admitted to MTV an attraction between himself and Decker.

"I'm attracted to her, and she might be attracted to me, whatever ... I mean, she has a boyfriend right now," he said. "We're in a wonderful location together, we're in all these exotic places ... We're keeping it nice and legit because she's got this guy back home."

When the show premiered, Decker said she would receive the tape the morning that the newest episode was to be aired. She watched it when no one was around to prepare herself and make any warning phone calls to mom and dad.

Amanda Bird, a senior agricultural journalism major, has been friends with Decker since the sixth grade. She said it was strange to watch her friend on TV, but the portrayal stayed true to who Decker is.

"Her personality, her energy for life and the way she is always looking for something new is what I love most about her," Bird said. "There is definitely never a dull moment when she is around."

As the trip was coming to a close, Decker was counting the days because she was ready to come home and end the "best/worst experience" of her life that "felt like it lasted for a year."

The happiness she felt being home became difficult when the opportunity for a

career in the entertainment industry came knocking. She was faced with the difficult decision of whether to continue college.

"I could make a quick load of money, then go back to school, but I know my personality and know I would not ever come back," Decker said. "I do feel like I am suffocating in this town just because you see what is out there, and I want to keep seeing the world."

Although being in College Station sometimes makes Decker want to scream, it is home to her, she said. She will, however, be on the first flight out somewhere immediately following graduation.

Decker said she does get recognized every day, but it does not happen in College Station as much as in other places such as the Houston Galleria.

"People are used to seeing me around here, but I was in the Galleria and this junior high girl started screaming when she saw me," she said. "I was so confused and did not realize what was going on at first."

Junior high to high schoolers, the primary age group who recognizes Decker, is different than the crowd that recognized her after her first foray into the public eye as a model in Playboy's Girls of the Big 12 issue and later as Playboy Cybergirl of the month.

Looking back on posing in Playboy, Decker said she has mixed emotions, especially when she thinks of her family, with whom she is extremely close.

"I did not think things through well enough before I did it. I do not know that I would have done it again," she said.

"However, that could have been my door opener to Road Rules because I did put that on my application."

The photos did open the doors for other modeling jobs, but Decker said there are negative effects of doing it such as the fact that the decision will affect her for the rest of her life because the pictures will always be there.

As many of Decker's former castmates are touring colleges across the country doing speaking tours, she is aiming for an August graduation while working four to six nights a week at The Tap, her "home away

from home."

"They are my family, and I cannot imagine a day without any of those people," Decker said. "I have never really worked somewhere where people were so close, anyone was ever in trouble, the whole world would be behind them ready to bat."

Even though Decker thinks that doing "RR vs. RW" challenge would be fun, she is trying to stay away from reality television.

"The bottom line is if I want a career in the entertainment industry, I have to break reality TV ties or I am never going to be taken seriously," she said.

Reflecting on the whole experience, Decker feels that she learned to relax and what it means to choose your battles.

"In the beginning, I always had to say what I thought about what everyone was talking about, but you just become mentally exhausted," she said. "I learned to mellow out a little bit and watch my mouth because I tend to be brutally honest and blunt."

Decker is no longer dating the guy she was dating during filming and she is not yet ready to settle down.

"In my heart, I know I am making that move to New York, so there is no point in getting emotionally attached," she said.

When people approach her about a desire to be on the show, she encourages them to send in a tape.

"No one who has ever been on the show thought they would make it in a million years," Decker said.

Though it was often difficult to be forced to see herself how other people see her by watching the show, Decker said she is so grateful she was given the opportunity.

"You are forced to look at yourself in the mirror," Decker said. "And if you do not like what you see, it is just a decision of am I going to change or am I okay with myself?"

"I could make loads of money, then go back to school, but I know my personality and know I would never come back ... I want to keep seeing the world."

— Mary Beth Decker
senior agricultural journalism major

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Boy band Hanson to rock Carnegie Hall

NEW YORK (AP) — Hanson will bop into Carnegie Hall for the final show of their acoustic tour. The trio, whose 1997 hit "MMMBop" helped launch the boy band craze of the late '90s, will perform there Nov. 5, they announced Wednesday. Tickets go on sale Thursday. Isaac Hanson, the oldest of the three brothers at 22, said it

was "a lifelong dream for us to perform at the historic Carnegie Hall and be able to stand on the same stage as many of the artists we so admire." Taylor Hanson, 20, and Zac Hanson, 17, round out the group. The trio began their "Acoustic '03" tour Aug. 9 and recently extended it through October. They plan to release their third studio album, "Underneath" on their own record label, 3CG Records, in spring 2004.

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Israel cutting

By Steve ...
THE ASSO

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To appease the — which opposes the barrier deep into — the new section — be disconnected from — and from existing — tions built closer — 1967 border with — Bank. The final — decided in the con —

The barrier was under public pressure means of keeping — attackers out of — hundreds have been — recent years' suicide — But the project has — eated by efforts — some of the 220,000 — settlers on the "Is —

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