

13 Nov 1967



Staff Photo by Howard Walker

Gail Scott, being interviewed

TV Hostess Calls Broadcasting Tough

By Marie Paull

Staff Reporter

Gail Scott, as a television hostess, is never late for her show.

But Gail Puzak admits she is late for almost everything.

Yesterday was no exception. She was 10 minutes late for her rendezvous with students at her alma mater, Wake Forest University.

A small group of students and friends waited, and several hugged her in remembrance of the days when she worked at WSJS radio and television stations.

For almost three hours, Miss Gail Scott Puzak, Class of '66, was the guest and the audience was the host on an informal talk show about broadcasting. Questions were many and the replies were fast and animated.

Miss Scott is co-host on WMAL-TV's "A.M. Washington" show with Keith McBee weekdays. The show, which began last June in Washington, is opposite, and similar to, NBC's "TODAY" show.

Nonprofessionally, Miss Scott goes by the name of Gail Puzak. She said one reason she uses two names is so that she will have her own identity when she is not on the air. She said it is embarrassing to be on a date and to be recognized when she wants the guy to feel that he is the special person.

suede boots, and a red polka-dot scarf. A good luck clover leaf pin and a chain with a medallion inscribed "Mayhem" were reminders of her work.

"I don't want to wait until I'm 64 like Pauline Fredericks (television reporter) to get married," she said.

Arriving here "au naturel," as Miss Scott described herself, she wore a navy blue turtle neck sweater, pants and

Broadcasting is mayhem, Miss Scott said, and advised her audience, especially women, to be determined if they go into it. "I'm here today to tell you to stay out of this business as much as to get in, because it is tough."

For Miss Scott, business means getting up at 4:30 a.m. and finishing the official work day by 9:30 or 10 a.m. But work also means lots of reading and boning up for interviews. It means sacrificing much social life.

Eight Hours' Sleep

"I'm one of those people who just has to have eight hours of sleep a day," she said. While she seldom went to bed before 2 a.m. as a student, Miss Scott said she usually sleeps twice a day now, trying to get her first four-hour nap by 1 p.m.

Miss Scott went to Washington, her hometown, to join WMAL radio in 1969.

She said that getting into broadcasting was not easy because she had to make people realize that she wanted to be more than just a secretary or a model with an attractive face and voice.

"It definitely is a man's business. But I want to make you aware of the quality of not just women's liberation but everybody's liberation," Miss Scott said.

Voice Is Tool

Miss Scott advised people interested in broadcasting to get a well-rounded background in liberal arts, to travel, to read and to talk, especially on the telephone. "Your voice is a tool you will need the rest of your life," she said.

Make people feel that you are interested in them and look them straight in the eye when you talk, Miss Scott said.

She recalled covering Tricia Nixon's wedding last summer, when she suddenly found herself standing next to the President. She was nervous and did not know what to say. Suddenly she heard herself asking him, "Are you nervous?"

He grinned and winked at her, she said.