

# Trading sums for showbiz

By CAROL BESLER

A Mississauga girl studying mathematics at Queen's University is trading numbers for lyrics. In July she'll join forces with a musical tour that is so popular in Spain, and Mexico people are just "screaming for them to return". And she didn't even have to audition.

Sandra Frid, 19, of Mississauga, was one of 50 Canadians chosen from 700 interviewed, to participate in an American-based cultural exchange program called Up with People.

Five groups of a hundred students from 20 countries will tour Canada, the United States and possibly Mexico and Spain for a year with "Building bridges of understanding" as their goal.

People understanding other people is what it's all about.

"It's a whole lot more than just a whole lot of music," says Sandra. "It's not for people who want to be performers," she added. "The performance is just the initial way to getting around and contacting people, so there was no audition."

All she needed was lots of energy, enthusiasm and a friendly attitude.

"They're looking for people who are into

meeting others and will try to understand their culture," says Sandra.

Sandra says the group was actually formed by officials in Spain in the past as a way of raising the moral of the people. They appeared on national television there.

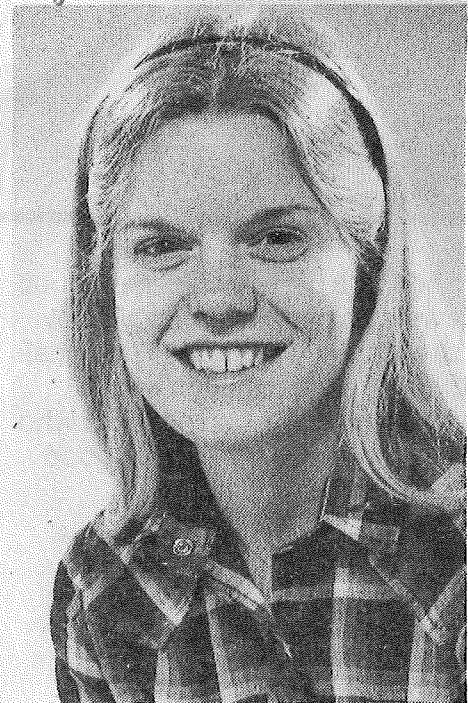
While Sandra expects a pleasurable experience meeting new friends, she's also ready for some hard work. She plans to keep a journal of her experiences and take pictures so when she returns she can give presentations to sponsors and schools to share the experience.

"It's very demanding," she says, "and very expensive."

Sandra has until June 16 to raise the required \$5,500 tuition. Although she has a little saved, she says she has "almost nothing" compared to the whole whopping amount.

She will seek financial help through educational grants, small fund-raising schemes, and hopes that local businesses will help too.

In this capacity, she feels that she will reach her goal of "building bridges of understanding" while contributing to the cultural mosaic of Canada.



SANDRA FRID . . . off on tour