

Lamb Chop: the Denise interview

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When I first found out I was getting my own column, I was shocked... SHOCKED. After all, what do I, the world's most pre-eminent perpetually amazed camelid have to offer such an esteemed publication as Bluffton Today? It turns out, I bring a unique perspective as one of the few ungulates working in the newspaper field today. I KNOW, RIGHT?!?!

So imagine my surprise when I found out my first assignment was to interview one of the most famous ungulates in the country, nay the world. Though born as a sock, famed puppet Lamb Chop has lived her life as one of my fellow hoofed mammals, and has delighted children the world over with her partner Mallory Lewis, daughter of the late Shari Lewis. I sat down with Mallory and Lamb Chop to discuss what they were up to, including something I had heard about a "Sock Brigade."

Denise: Lamb Chop, Mallory, so pleased to speak with the both of you. Please tell me a little bit about the Sock Brigade you're working with.

Mallory: The Sock brigade was founded in 2007 by Barbara and Randy Coleman to support their active duty son Michael. The goal is to send three pair of alpaca socks to all our troops fighting for us overseas. They've sent nearly 9,000 pairs so far.

Denise: ALPACA SOCKS?!?!?!?

Lamb Chop: We love alpackys. They're so cute (Editor's note: She really pronounced it 'alpacky.' It was the cutest thing anyone has ever



Special to Bluffton Today

The author, Denise, with Lamb Chop and Mallory Lewis. The author is reverting to her natural hair color between shearings.

heard.) I'm just happy they're using alpaca fur instead of lamb's wool. Otherwise I'd be the one needing some socks.

Denise: We alpacas do have quite the mane. And so they named you the official spokesock, correct?

Lamb Chop: I know everything about being a sock. Their socks, the ones we're sending over, don't talk. They keep their feetsies warm. I'm a very lucky sock because no one has ever stuck their feet in me. Those socks just need to focus on our troops. I make 'em laugh, they keep 'em warm.

Mallory: Lamb Chop and I do a lot for the troops. We've been all over the world with USO and we do a lot of shows at Miramar. We performed in front of 50,000 troops at Fort Hood a few years back, and they were all chanting for Lamb Chop, it was incredible. They work so hard under such difficult circumstances. So we're very proud of what the Sock Brigade is doing and we're happy to help.

Denise: Well Mallory, Lamb Chop, I applaud you both for not only keeping our troops' feet warm, but also for promoting the finest, most luxurious, hypo-allergenic fur on the planet.

Lamb Chop: Well we just want to keep those fighting boys and girls warm.

Mallory: Everyone's getting Christmas stockings, they just want warm socks on their feet.

To learn more about the Sock Brigade or to donate and help drape our soldiers in the fur of the noblest of camelids, visit benstarproject.org/SockBrigade.html. If you have a specific unit you'd like to get socks for, e-mail info@benstarprojects.org You can see more of Mallory and Lamb Chop at mallorylewisandlambchop.com

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