

By Carolyn Lee

The Imperial Republican

Jo and Jeff Leyland of Imperial were able to experience a part of New York City that most tourists don't get to see, thanks to Jo's nephew. He and his future wife were chosen to participate in MTV's "Engaged and Underage: The Bridal Bowl."

Adam Wheaton of Haigler and his fiancée, Stephanie Hellerich of Lincoln, were chosen to be married on New Year's Day at the MTV studios.

The process started when the couple, at the time both University of Nebraska-Kearney students, found the event on-line and applied. Jo Leyland said they were both still in college, "poor and young," so met the requirements.

MTV put the couple on a short list and sent a film crew to Kearney before Thanksgiving. The crew filmed them performing everyday tasks for three days.

The couple was then informed that they might make the cut. They were to shop for a wedding dress, rings and an apartment.

Just after Thanksgiving they were told they were one of four couples chosen to be married live on MTV. The show aired at 11 a.m. on New Year's Day.

MTV paid for the couple and 18 of their guests to fly to New York City and stay at the Broadway Millennium Hotel, one-half block from Times Square.

The rehearsal dinner, also paid for by MTV, was Dec. 30. The guests had New Year's Eve to themselves, and most chose to watch the famous Times Square ball drop from the bride's room on the 50th floor of the hotel.

On New Year's Day, the couple was married by Stephanie's minister from Lincoln, in a studio that Leyland said was "very nice."

The reception was held on MTV's seventh floor. Leyland said that since it was live, the guests would be sitting around and someone would say, "You have to get up and dance now and be happy."

If you were watching MTV on New Year's Day, she said, you could have seen her dancing the "Macarena."

Wheaton is the son of Leyland's sister Jerrie and husband Jim of Haigler. He works construction, while Stephanie is still a student at UN-K.