By Nancy Whitaker

I AM NOT A CELEBRITY

I wonder why we are all so absorbed with the lives of celebrities? We go see their movies and watch television and like certain actors, actresses and singers. However, it seems whenever a celebrity has problems, breaks the law or dies, the story consumes news coverage.

Personally, I get tired of hearing about Lindsey Lohan's recent escapades and the Kardashian family's dirty laundry. Is it necessary to hear all the details about the celebrities who gained weight, got a divorce or had a baby?

Those who are familiar with The Food Channel on TV have probably watched the great southern cook, Paula Deen. Everything she cooks uses a stick of butter and lots of cream and sugar.

The beloved cook was recently diagnosed with Type 2 Diabetes. This story was a leading news story with everyone blaming her disease on using fattening ingredients in her cooking.

To top it all off, a news outlet reported that the food icon was spotted eating a cheeseburger. To me it is Paula Deen's decision if she wants to eat a cheeseburger. Are we more concerned with her cheeseburger, her disease or just having something to talk about?

Of course when anyone is in the public eye, including not only celebrities, but doctors, preachers, lawyers and politicians, they become fodder for the media.

The most recent celebrity to suffer from media scrutiny is Demi Moore. She has been dominating entertainment news for some time because of her recent split from her boytoy hubby, Ashton Kutcher.

Moore is now in the news because a 911 call was made from her home saying that the movie beauty had taken a possible overdose and was having convulsions. If Demi Moore was not a celebrity, the 911 call would have not have received this much attention and some of her privacy could have been respected.

The Moore 911 call has been played on every channel and every news station. While 911 calls are public record, I still feel that even if you are a celebrity that respect should be shown.

The same is true when a celebrity dies. You hear so much more about the death of a celebrity and all the tributes made about them that by the time they are buried you get the notion they were some kind of a saint.

We hear about Lindsay Lohan’s drug and rehab problems, Paris Hilton is always getting into trouble and every other political figure gets caught in a sex scandal with their pants down. These stories capture media attention, but is it fair to these people to plaster everything they do on the evening news?

Years ago our own local papers were full of interesting things like who went to someone's house for supper or if someone took a trip to Fort Wayne.

How things have changed. I wonder if the hardships of celebrities make us feel better by knowing even celebrities and the rich and famous have problems?

Do you think the private lives of celebrities should dominate the news? So what if Paula Deen ate a cheeseburger? It is her business. So what if Kirstie Alley gained 30 pounds?

Everyone is entitled to their privacy and personally I am glad I am not a famous person.

What do you think of celebrity news? Do you think the media should broadcast everytime a celebrity gets a traffic ticket? Let me know and I'll give you a Penny for Your thoughts.