

Reporter Gains Insight into Public TV

By Donna King

As I approach down the long, winding driveway, the bright-white angular, modern architecture of the office building is striking, almost blinding. The grounds are perfectly manicured and, high above, the American flag and the North Carolina flag flap in the breeze. The glass revolving doors turn and I am standing in an enormous lobby with the same striking architecture. The walls are a brilliant white and the carpet is dark green. There is a balcony overlooking the lobby, where people are hustling back and forth, trying to do their jobs. In the corner, next to the reception desk, is a life-size cut-out of Big Bird, which seems so out of place in this modern, professional building. But then I realize that Big Bird belongs here. This is the North Carolina Center for Public Television, better known as Channel Four.

"Can I help you?" asks a friendly voice from behind the huge desk. I tell her who I am here to see, and she tells me to wait. While I am waiting, I cannot help but notice other decorations in the lobby. Next to Big Bird is an old-fashioned TV camera. There is also a big-screen TV (tuned in to Channel Four, of course!) At the far end of the lobby there is a curious collection of papier-mache heads of all shapes and colors. As I start to get interested

in these, my interview subject appears. She is Camille Patterson, a large, friendly woman with red hair, large glasses, and a booming voice. She introduces herself and suggested that we talk in the studio.

The studio is set up for filming with the sets of several shows already in place in different corners of the room. We sit down on the set of Stateline, a popular show that explores the issues facing North Carolinians. She is apparently rather long-winded; I ask her one small question, and she gives me a thoughtful and information-packed answer. Camille explains to me how the PBS system works. It is unlike any other network, not only in that it is non-profit, but also in how its shows are produced. The main PBS does not produce any shows. Instead, the affiliates, like NCPTV, produce their own shows and sell some of them to the network so that the network can sell them to other affiliates. The station also buys most of its programming from the network. NCPTV (its call letters are WUNC), produces approximately 25% of its programming. "That is what makes us different from other stations in the area," Camille says. "We do all of our graphics, advertising, program scheduling, audience analysis, and much of our broadcasting right here in the building."

I ask Camille how a non-profit station gets money, because they have no commercials. "Well, there is always a financial struggle," she said. "But we are just coming out of Festival, where we raise about one million of our \$9 million-a-year budget. The rest comes from private sponsors, federal grants, and state funds. That is why it is so important to have a good lobbyist representing us in the state legislature," she adds with a note of seriousness.

My next question, regarding the purposes of public television, is one which she is more than happy to answer. She is very earnest and everything she says sounds like a brochure for Public Television. "We want to provide quality programming that will stimulate thought and action among all ages, as well as entertain, all ages," Camille says proudly. PBS was founded in 1969 on these principles, and now has 337 stations affiliated with it. "We want to remain different from other stations, and provide the public with programs that they cannot get anywhere else, such as Sesame Street, the how-to's, the adult continuing-education classroom programs, and the nature and environmental awareness programs," she adds.

Our interview is cut short by a frantic assistant saying that they are having satellite problems. Camille apologizes and heads off

in the direction of her office. On her way out of the studio, she almost runs over a life-size Grover giving a group of school kids a tour of the station. Whoever is in that Grover costume does not look happy. There are kids clinging to all of his appendages, and his Grover voice seems to be going hoarse. "Well, boys and girls, here we are in the studio. This is where we film TV shows, such as Sesame Street." The kids are talking and yelling so much that they do not even hear him. I try to sneak out past them, but as I pass through the studio door, Grover says, in a deep, masculine voice, "Ya wanna sticker?" He hands me a sticker with Bert and Ernie on it. I smile, tell him thank you and start down the hall towards the lobby. As I walk, I can hear the kids behind me screaming that they want stickers also. I decide that being Grover is one job that I would rather not have.

Leaving, I feel as though I understand Public Television a bit more. It is not just boring opera performances or pictures of giraffes. It is an effort to bring educational programs of quality to a medium that is in desperate need of substance. It can never succeed without public financial support. Perhaps people will realize this and help keep quality programming on the air.

Students Share Favorite Restaurants

By Kathryn McRee

The Belles recently asked a few Saint Mary's students to name their favorite restaurant in the Raleigh area. So when the meal served at the dining hall does not turn out to be delicious as you had hoped, here are some tasty alternatives:

- Lea Baker—The Melting Pot
- Robin Bullard—42nd Street Oyster Bar
- Traci Campell—Bojangles (spicy fries)
- Elizabeth Daniels—42nd Street Oyster Bar
- Blake Dawloam—Crossroads
- Amy Duvall—Rockola Cafe
- Debbie Goldstone—T.K. Tripps
- Shannon Holbrook—Top of the Tower
- Kate Mays—Darryl's
- Camey McDonald—Angus Barn
- Allison Morgan—Crowley's
- Barbara Shackelford—Angus Barn
- Jennifer Garrison—Mountain Jack's
- Michelle Smith—Bojangles
- Lindsay Luxton—Bojangles
- Bree Parker—The Melting Pot
- Margaret Rakes—Burger King
- Tiffany Cashwell—Bojangles
- Meredith Johnson—Bojangles
- Julie Musgrave—Bojangles
- Allison Sedwick—Red Lobster
- Ashton Lowe—Crossroads
- Nina Cavallaro—Kanki
- Melissa Inscoe—42nd Street Oyster Bar

- Amy Moore—Bo's
- Holleigh McLaurin—Bennigans
- Jill Bullock—Crossroads Bakery
- Susan Stone—Bruegers Bagel Bakery
- Ellie Jarman—Winston's

2nd City Grill

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imported bottled beer. This is something which you cannot get with your meal at a fast-food place.

The thing that I like about 2nd City Grill is that it is close to where I live, it has a great menu, it is affordable, and it is quick and easy. Rick Peery reminded me of their hours. He said, "We are now serving breakfast, and we are very excited about that." He told me that I needed to come back soon and try the new breakfast. "We have all sorts of breakfast sandwiches, pancakes, Belgian waffles, eggs, and Danishes, and I have yet to try them all," he said. I told him that I could not wait to eat there for breakfast, and I really cannot wait. I thanked him again as I was leaving, and he reminded me of their other restaurant in Chapel Hill. I told him that I would look forward to eating there as well. So if you want a quick and tasty meal, in a convenient location that is close to you, try 2nd City Grill in Cameron Village.

Father-Daughter Weekend



Registration



Blake Dawbarn, Lisa Martin, Lea Baker, and dads