

SRC TV Doesn't Make for Real Entertainment

I was surprised twice when I spoke with Nick Schittone, director of programming for the College Television Network, to try to unravel the mystery behind the televisions in the Student Recreation Center.

"Any university that wants us there" gets the free TVs that must be tuned to the College Television Network 24/7, Schittone said. What surprised me is that this implies that someone at UNC actually asked to have them put in, but nobody in the SRC seems to know who.

If you don't visit the SRC or the Granville laundry rooms, you may not know anything about the CTN, a channel that, according to Schittone, provides "the best entertainment out there for the college audience." This means playing the hottest new videos about 79 times per week, peppered with fast-paced, MTV-style news updates.

opinion
By Warren Wilson

It's obnoxious, and I wanted to tell the world how much I hate it, how my refined music critic taste was far above any of the "entertainment" it provides. The fact is, I simply can't do that. Not without Shaggy popping into my head, knowing full well that I'm lying when I tell him "it wasn't me" who wrote that column mocking his video. My subconscious knows that I watch it between sets, as long as I'm working out alone.

My excuse is that CTN is my exclusive source for hearing hot new music, an obligation for the serious music writer like myself. I can work out while watching it, and it's a hell of a lot cheaper than calling my little sister three times per week. The truth is, it's addictive.

SRC employees complain that CTN plays the same songs over and over again, an irritating prospect when you can't change the channel. They sometimes get around this by turning the sound off and playing radio stations offering more variety, like G105.

Others have complained that CTN's Sarah McLachlan videos aren't conducive to exercise. This may be true, but that's because the CTN is so much more than background music. It gives me something to stare at instead of other peoples' asses.

Yet the College Television Network really does suck a large percentage of the time. Slower songs can be problematic, but for me the bullshit "modern rock" (i.e., Creed, Three Doors Down) brings on the emotional diarrhea that makes me want to simultaneously puke and smash the TV with a dumbbell.

Of course, CTN doesn't program specifically for weight rooms. In fact, the second surprise of my conversation with Schittone came when he told me that his network is broadcasted on cable as well, even though the programming doesn't seem appropriate for televisions that let you change the channel.

But maybe some people would

watch, if CTN actually is the total entertainment package it bills itself to be. Beyond videos, Schittone said, the station focuses on sports, fashion, animation, technology and all other substance-free interests of the stylish yet sophisticated college student of today. I visited the Web site to investigate.

There I found an uplifting interview with Uncle Kracker, Kid Rock's DJ and CTN's Freshman Artist of the Week, concluded with his declaration of love for his baby daughter.

"She won't be attending rock-and-roll concerts anytime soon," Kracker explained. "Maybe I'll start her off with some Christian bands when she's 30."

Unfortunately for the child's Uncle/daddy, shielding her from the College Television Network won't be that easy.

The Arts & Entertainment Editor can be reached at artsdesk@unc.edu.

this Week

- **"Black Orpheus,"** today at the Sonja H. Stone Black Cultural Center. Part of the Black Film Series, this film explores the samba, set against the backdrop of Brazil's Carnival. 962-9001.
- **Mayflies USA, The Comas,** Friday at Cat's Cradle. The Mayflies and the Comas are two of the greatest Chapel Hill pop bands of all time, for the moment. 967-9053.
- **"Marisol,"** opens Friday at Swain Hall. Company Carolina's production of the oft-picketed supernatural drama about a war in Heaven. 990-1121.
- **"Almost Famous,"** Friday and Saturday at the Carolina Union Auditorium. Cameron Crowe's aptly-named semi-autobiographical rock opus which was critically acclaimed, yet crashed at the box office. See for yourself why Kate Hudson won a Golden Globe for best actress. 962-1449.
- **Cherry Valence,** Friday at Go! Studios. Raleigh's favorite sons invade Chapel Hill for a night of rock 'n' roll. Think MC5, the Stooges, and lots of older Raleigh hipsters. Get there early before the PBR sells out. 969-1400.
- **Bio Ritmo,** Saturday at Cat's Cradle. Everybody's favorite Chapel Hill-via-Richmond salsa band lays down some hot, spicy beats to make you move. 967-9053.
- **"Tango Pasión,"** Tuesday at the Carolina Theatre's Fletcher Hall in Durham. Argentina's top dancers perform the passionate South American dance set to the music of Astor Piazzolla's "The Tangata Suite." 560-3040.
- **Low, Labradford,** Wednesday at Cat's Cradle. Make sure you've had a good nap before you come to this show of slow, quiet, but oh-so-pretty indie rock. 967-9053.

Renowned Peabody Trio Brings Classical Flair to UNC

By MICHAEL ABERNETHY
Staff Writer

Roll over, Beethoven, and give Tchaikovsky the news. Classical music is outdated, right? Not so, says Seth Knopp, pianist for the internationally renowned and award-winning Peabody Trio, which performs at 8 p.m. Friday in the Hill Hall Auditorium.

The trio, which formed in 1987 and won the Naumberg Foundation's Chamber Music Award in 1989, is a firm believer in the timeless power of classical music.

"Music reveals what words cannot," Knopp said. "Words are around but not

Peabody Trio
Hill Hall Auditorium
Friday, Feb. 16
8 p.m.
\$12, \$10, \$5

exact. Great pieces are about life searches and the greatest pieces' meanings deepen over time, with more life experience."

The trio is also made up of Knopp's wife, violinist Violaine Melançon, and what he calls a "perfect match" of a cellist, newest member Natasha Brofsky. The trio, which is the resident faculty ensemble of the Peabody Conservatory in Baltimore, is scheduled to perform a broad range of pieces, including both traditional and contemporary works of the chamber music genre.

"There is a large body of great works to explore," Knopp said. "We want to give exposure to newer works and also breathe new life into older, more traditional works."

Music Professor Richard Luby, who originally scheduled the trio to perform, said he chose it because it is a group of internationally renowned artists from the East Coast. "I thought it would be good to present them to our audience here," he said, an audience he believes will be filled with a wide range of peo-

ple, from faculty to music majors and other students.

As instructors at the Peabody Conservatory, the trio's members conduct classes and weekly seminars for gifted high school and college-age musicians about classical performance techniques. They are also frequent visitors to the area's elementary and middle schools, where the trio enjoys teaching young children how to listen to music and what to listen for.

"Classical music is a different form than radio, so there is a different way of listening," stated Knopp. "But we find that children often understand what composers mean better than musicians. They are wonderful at listening to the heart of the matter."

When asked why he thought UNC students should be interested in a classical performance, Knopp replied enthusiastically, "What's not to be excited about? Anyone who is interested in individual expression of emotion and what's common between people should be fascinated by classical music."

The concert is the sixth this year in the William S. Newman Artists Series. Tickets are \$12 for the general public, \$10 for seniors and \$5 for students. They can be purchased at the music department's office in Hill Hall or at the door.

The Arts & Entertainment Editor can be reached at artsdesk@unc.edu.

- WXYC 89.3 top ten** Jan. 28-Feb. 3
1. **New Pornographers - Mass Romantic** (Mint)
 2. **Various Artists - The Soulful Women Duets of South Texas** (Arhoolie)
 3. **Phoaming Edison - Happy Nap Casino** (Dark Beloved Cloud)
 4. **Various Artists - This is Samba! Vols. 1 & 2** (Rounder)
 5. **Cinematic Orchestra - Remixes 98-2000** (NinjaTune)
 6. **Euphone - Hashin' it Out** (Jade Tree)
 7. **Abbc - Tete a Tete** (Wabana)
 8. **Cracow Klezmer Band - De Profundis** (Tzadik)
 9. **Dave Douglas - A Thousand Evenings** (RCA Victor)
 10. **Jazzanova - The Remixes 1997-2000** (Compost)

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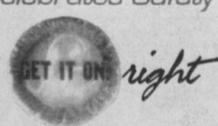
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For more information about Safer Sex, Abstinence, Sexually Transmitted Infections, Testing or Contraceptive Options, contact Student Health at 966-6586 or check us out on the web at studenthealth.unc.edu.

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