

Men slip into soaps addiction

By VERONICA GONTRAM
Staff Writer

Chief of Police Burt Ramsey has turned villain!

He's threatening the lives of Port Charles citizens as the mob tries to move in. Never fear though, Robert Scorpio is back, saving Port Charles as he protects the lives of ex-wife, Ana, and daughter, Robin.

If you've been in tune lately with ABC's daytime soaps, you probably recognize the above scenario as the latest action on "General Hospital." But if you've been too busy to catch afternoon television, names and plots may no longer be familiar. Catching up is simple, and, in an age when watching soaps is not restricted to women, asking a guy about daytime drama may produce better results than asking the gal beside him.

According to the Nielson television ratings for the middle two weeks of October, 785,400 men (ages 18-34) across the nation watch "General Hospital."

When and how do UNC guys get addicted to the heated afternoon shows? Most blame the start of their habit on mothers, sisters and friends. One sophomore, Sterling Gilreath, even goes so far as to push the blame on his grandmother, who used to babysit him when he was young. "I started when I was 5 or 6 years old. My grandmother used to watch 'Guiding Light' so I grew up with it."

But most guys say they started watching soaps a little later, when high school hit. Their reason is simple — they were bored in the afternoon and nothing better was on the tube. In high school, though, the addiction may be easy to control. A school day from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. does not allow time for a wealth of daytime drama.

What happens then, when guys get to college? Do they arrange their schedules around their favorite soaps? "No!" is the common answer. Sophomore Charles Moore explains that classes usually get in the way of his shows except on Fridays and "If I skip English on Tuesday and Thursday..."

Gilreath says he doesn't plan to watch the soaps, but his free afternoons just happen to coincide with daytime showings. "It just works out

that I'm out of class at that time." However, he admits that he'll schedule his day around a show if it has a good plot.

Coincidental or not, guys are watching soaps. No longer do some guys consider themselves "too much of a man" to enjoy afternoon fun. Many insist they do not get flak for participating in the once female-oriented pastime. But sophomore Mike Moore answers differently. "Kidded? Oh, all the time," he says.

Teasing may occur, but that's not enough to stop most guys from talking among friends — both women and men — about the latest murder, divorce or love affair on television. UNC male watchers say ABC and CBS are capturing guys' attention with "All My Children," "General Hospital," "Guiding Light" and "As The World Turns." Two favorite characters among the men interviewed are Tad Martin on "All My Children" and Robert Scorpio on "General Hospital." The two characters are, of course, tough, yet good guys overall who always get the women.

Watching afternoon television often enough to pick a favorite soap

Honor Court

people," Weiss said. "And that bias toward the accused is right, considering the consequences of a guilty verdict."

Weiss said he has always been impressed how thorough and careful the Court's actions are.

But one weakness of the Court, he said, is the lack of knowledge about computers among Court members. "I can't teach them in a limited amount of time what I've taken two weeks to teach my class," he said. "Computer literacy does cause a problem."

Furr said the Committee on Student Conduct, which oversees the student judicial system and proposes changes to improve the system, is working to decide if technical experts are needed in some Court cases.

"It's hard for a professor to sit there and testify to what concerns him and also explain why it's a problem," Furr said.

Patteson said Monday's decision, which was reached after the Court deliberated for two and a half hours,

and character sounds almost typical of the housewife who sits at home glued to the television. Guys on campus insist, though, that they do not compare to the addicted hombody. Freshman Greg Lamm says he is less wrapped up than most mothers. He adds, "I know pretty much what is going to happen — I have a producer's mind."

Charles Moore, as well as others, insists that if there is something better to do, he'll do it. He adds that while watching soaps, he busies himself with something else. Doing two activities at once is not too difficult, in his opinion, since soap operas are like "MTV with a plot."

Contrary to popular opinion, male soap opera watchers say soaps have not turned great college minds to mush. Intelligent men on campus realize, as Charles Moore says, "All of the soaps move so slow that you can watch a show once a month and still know what's going on."

So, if by chance you miss the monthly viewing of your favorite daytime drama, don't hesitate to request a brief summary from a fellow classmate — male or female.

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came after all the evidence was added up, not from any single piece of testimony.

The long deliberation was not typical of Court cases, Johnston said. "But that's normal for this kind of case," he said.

"You are wading through very detailed information," he said. "There was a very thorough process of review and it was objective, with good presentation of evidence."

The other justice who decided the case was Anna Phillips.

The roles of the investigator and the defender work together to present different angles of the case, said Justice Laura Zeligman. "Really, two people are appointed to get to the bottom of it."

Furr said the Court's investigators and the defenders were not adversaries. "It's more like an inquisitive presentation of evidence."

Fries said the defender, Jeff Reichard, helped her and Idol organize their information and their thoughts before the hearing.



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