

# 'General College' — a daytime drama of life at UNC

By HANNAH DRUM  
Staff Writer

Forget skipping class to catch up on the latest episodes of "All My Children" or "General Hospital."

The season premiere of "General College," the soap opera created by Student Television (STV), will air tonight on Village Cable Channel 11.

"General College" is a drama set on the UNC campus that deals with the problems a college student might face every day, said producer Adam Reist, a junior RTVMP major who created the soap opera.

"I heard all the gossip and stories about what people are doing, and I said, 'This is a perfect idea for a soap opera,'" Reist said. "I just took an idea that a friend gave me and made it a lot more steamy."

Reist began working on "General College" last fall, but it did not run as a special part of STV programming until last semester.

This semester, STV will air a new 15-minute soap segment every Monday night with repeat shows on Wednesday nights.

There are four major story lines to the soap this semester that include plots centered around love triangles, drugs, homosexuality, premarital sex, rape and racial issues, Reist said.

Assistant Producer Rob Vanderberry said the producers and the seven writers on the crew try to treat the subjects in a way that would not offend the viewers.

"I don't think we're writing a documentary," Vanderberry said. "We treat the sensitive subjects the way people would treat them in real life."

Assistant producer Jason Lyon said many of the soap themes this season may seem more serious than

the ones presented last semester. The writers are trying to reach the students by presenting situations similar to those happening on the UNC campus, he said.

Each "General College" scene is filmed in classrooms, dormitories, fraternity houses and other locations around campus, emphasizing that the soap is UNC-oriented, Reist said.

One 15-minute episode may take more than 60 hours to write, rehearse, film and edit, but Vanderberry said the effort results in "a very well-made show."

STV may enter "General College" in the National Students' Programming Competition, a contest for student television organizations, Vanderberry said.

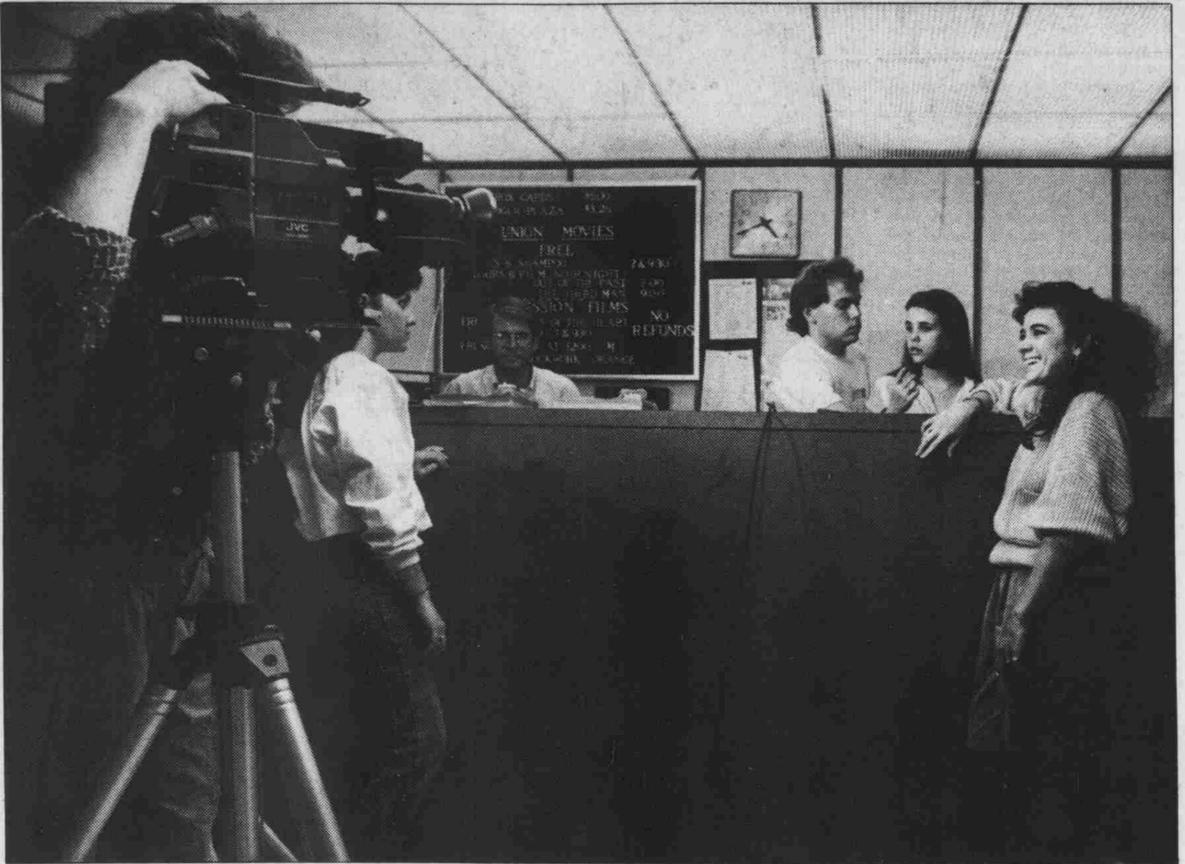
Reist said he hoped his creation would attract more attention to STV and make it a more effective media source at UNC.

"General College" is the first STV production to encourage involvement from the University's drama department, Reist said.

More than 60 people, including many drama students, auditioned for the soap's 10 acting parts, which gave the producers a very talented group to work with this season, Reist said.

Since STV productions can only be seen on cable TV, many students may not have the opportunity to see "General College," Reist said he hoped the University would allow cable service in the dormitory rooms within four years so students can have access to STV.

Pizza Hut on Franklin Street shows STV programming on Monday nights, and Theodore's shows "General College" repeats on Wednesdays at 11 p.m.



UNC's Student Television crew films its soap opera, "General College," at the Union desk

DTH/Charlotte Cannon

## 'Fat Girl' explores dilemma of conformity

By JAMES BURRUS  
Staff Writer

Andre Dubus' "The Fat Girl" is not about weight loss, but deals with love and relationships, said Betsy Martin, who is directing the piece of literature for Readers Theatre.

"It deals with the life of an adolescent obese girl," Martin said. "(It) traces her life from her childhood up to her adulthood, looks at her intimate relationships and how they affect her weight condition."

Three actresses play different aspects of the personality of the title character Louise. Allison Stanley plays the fat Louise, Lesley Duggins plays the thin Louise, and Cindy Kistenberg plays the Louise who must decide whether to be fat or thin.

Stanley, a senior communications major from Charlotte, said her aspect of Louise is "the non-conformist to society." Stanley said, "(My aspect) didn't realize I had a weight problem until outsiders persuaded me to lose weight."

Duggins, a sophomore drama and speech major from Morristown, Tenn., said her role as Louise centers on the drive to lose weight.

"By losing this weight, she (Louise) has gained all these materialistic things, all the praise from her family," Duggins said. "In some ways (I play) a more superficial side of her character, more conforming to society."

Stanley said, "When the other girl (Duggins) takes over, she conforms to society, where I was content the way I was."

Kistenberg, a second year graduate student in speech communications from Greensboro, plays the analytical side of Louise.

"I play the present part of Louise looking back to decide whether to be thin or fat or how I'd like the rest of my life to go," Kistenberg said.

Duggins said, "The whole play is about the struggle between Allison and my character for Cindy's soul."

Readers Theatre, which started in the 1950s, is the performance of any kind of literature, not just dramatic works, Martin said.

"It's a way of staging any kind of literature that exists and putting it in a presentational form," Martin said. "The goal of Readers Theatre is to illuminate the text in the reader's



Members of the Readers Theatre act out a "cinema" scene

DTH/Charlotte Cannon

mind."

This form of theatre is different from traditional theatre, Martin said.

"Readers Theatre features the text as opposed to traditional theatre that features spectacle or can feature the actors," she said.

The participants in Readers Theatre come from two speech classes — 141 and 245. Students are required to participate in the technical aspects for one production and then act in the other. The other production this semester is James Joyce's "Clay," to

be performed Nov. 11 and 12.

"The Fat Girl" will be performed by the Readers Theatre today and Thursday at 8 p.m. in 203 Bingham Hall. Performance time runs approximately one hour. Admission is free.

## Young black voters outnumber whites, census study shows

From Associated Press reports

WASHINGTON — For the first time, the share of young blacks who voted surged significantly ahead of the percentage of young whites who went to the polls, the Census Bureau reported Tuesday in a study of turnout for the 1986 election.

Turnout of people aged 18 to 24 has grown steadily among blacks in recent years, with increasing numbers of blacks seeking public office and campaigns being conducted to get blacks to register in larger numbers.

"The result of the recent increases for black youth and the 1986 drop for white youth was that for the first time . . . turnout among young blacks in 1986 exceeded that of young whites," the Census Bureau's report said.

Black registration and voting has grown significantly in the South, the study added, and it is in that region that politicians agree that blacks have had a significant effect.

Black voters are credited with helping to return Democrats to power in the U.S. Senate in the 1986 election, unseating incumbents in such states as Alabama, Georgia and North Carolina and fending off the GOP in Louisiana.

As black turnout was growing, voting by young whites slipped somewhat, the Census Bureau found in its study, titled "Voting and Registration in the Election of November 1986."

The report compared turnout among people aged 18 to 24 in non-presidential elections in recent years.

It found that in 1974 whites in

this age group outvoted blacks 24 percent to 20 percent, but that by 1982 the two groups were virtually tied, with turnout at about 25 percent each.

In 1986, turnout for both groups edged down slightly, still rounding off to 25 percent for young blacks while falling to 22 percent for their white counterparts, the report found.

By comparison, whites 18 to 24 outvoted blacks 42 percent to 41 percent in the 1984 presidential campaign, a year that showed black participation rising sharply at a time when the campaign of Jesse Jackson drew considerable attention to the black community.

Four years earlier, in 1980, young whites outvoted young blacks 42 percent to 30 percent.

Historically, voter turnout by this age group has been the lowest of all ages, the bureau noted.

For all voters aged 18 to 24, turnout was about 22 percent in 1986, the report said, compared with 41 percent of those aged 25 to 44, 59 percent of those aged 45 to 64, and 61 percent for people 65 or over. All of those figures were down from 1982 except those for the oldest group, which increased its turnout by 1 percentage point.

On a national basis for all age groups, whites turned out in larger shares than blacks — 47 percent to 43 percent — in 1986. Four years earlier, whites had led 50 percent to 43 percent.

Overall, the study said 64.8 million Americans voted in the election of November 1986, down from 67.6 million four years earlier, according to ballot counts.

## Theismann

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get up and do something with my life.' That's when he shook it off and went back to being great."

Theismann joked that he doesn't "really follow Taylor around everywhere, no matter what you think." Taylor was in Chapel Hill Monday night to promote his new book.

Theismann also spoke at length about obtaining personal happiness in life.

"Don't let money be the only factor that motivates you," he said. "Can you buy real happiness with money?"

"The little things in life make the difference. On the night I broke my leg, (Redskins Coach) Joe Gibbs

never came to see me. After five years of telling me how important I was, he didn't even show up."

"Believe me, actions speak louder than words."

After the speech, Theismann answered several questions from students. He had a decisive response to a question about his chance of returning to a football career.

"Very simply, I cannot play the game of football any more," he said. "I'll never play again."

He also rejected the possibility of having a career in coaching or politics. He said he thought about coaching once — "But then I woke up."

The standing-room-only crowd responded loudly when Theismann stressed the importance of fan support at Saturday's homecoming game against the Deacons.

"If you make a lot of noise, then Wake Forest won't be able to communicate," he said. "If Wake can't communicate, Carolina wins. And if Carolina wins, that means the parties are going to be awesome Saturday night!"



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