

# Students' TV viewing habits run gamut from all the time to never

By GINGER MEEK  
Staff Writer

Are you a junkie, or do you rarely light up the tube?

Most college students interviewed spend between six and seven hours a week watching television. For some it is a priority, for others the ever-popular tube is a leisure activity.

They are all out there — from Oprah Winfrey faithfuls to people who have never seen Bart Simpson in action. Television is a popular medium, but it is not a must for everyone.

Many students watch news programs as a source of information.

"If I don't watch the news I have no clue what is going on in the rest of the world," said Allison Hayes, a senior majoring in American history.

Joseph Lowman, associate professor in the psychology department, speculated why students, or anyone, watches television. "I predict some people watch TV as an escape from what troubles them."

Students say they watch television for leisure, entertainment, relaxation, information or just to spend time with friends. Beth Dupree, a sophomore nursing major whose favorite show of all time is "Sanford and Son," said she

watches television to laugh.

Information and entertainment are the main benefits that Matthew Eisele, a junior journalism major, gets from time spent watching the tube. Eisele said he tries not to miss Star Trek, his favorite show, but he definitely does not consider himself a TV junkie and being one is not an aspiration for him. "In fact, I aspire not to be a TV junkie."

Television is a priority for Matthew Cervi, a junior majoring in economics. Cervi watches news, sports and situation comedies, his favorite of which is "The Simpsons."

Susan Sparks, a junior journalism major, said television definitely has a somewhat hypnotic power. "You sit down to watch one show, another good one comes on and you're hooked...it's a good reason not to study."

Lowman said that hypnotic power is what turns people into TV junkies. He said television can be addicting, just like alcohol, drugs or food.

He advised TV junkies to keep a log and follow restrictions on planned viewing, and turn the tube off before the preview of the next show comes on. He said television addicts must "physically break the hypnotic control of the television set."

"Television watching should be done

in an active way," Lowman said. Homes where the tube is on all day like a talking lamp are homes where people can't stand to be alone with their thoughts, he said.

Lowman added that people who essentially never watch television are not necessarily less fortunate than those who watch 15 hours every week. "I find it hard to imagine someone who never watches television being deprived of anything."

Some students say they don't have as much time to watch television while away at college, others say they have more. Sparks said she has much more free time now.

"While in high school, you were in school all day," she said. "In college, even if you have three classes, you can be out theoretically by noon."

Poor reception has caused a reduction in time in front of the tube for Garth Lawrence, a pre-med freshman. He said he makes up for missing the news by reading newspapers. Cervi said he simply does not have time to watch as much television at school as he does at home.

What about educational programming? "I watch (educational programming) myself—and I do learn from it," Lowman said. "—but I learn more if I sit down and read a book for an hour."



Mary Quigley, John McGrail, Steve Woodham, Dean Humphrey, and Russell Killen watch TV in Winston lounge

## Jody grind's cool show heats up Cradle

Those who came to the jody grind's Saturday night performance at the Cat's Cradle didn't expect the opening appearances of either Taz Halloween or the chainsaw-toting, raucous Deacon Lunchbox, a striking contrast to the jody grind's cool, smooth performance. It was truly a show to behold.

Taz Halloween opened her set with a long, narrative slide show and continued with jaunts into the bizarre that left the majority of the audience in awe of her oddities. The image elicited was that of a smoky bistro in some desolate sub-section of New York, with a mystical madam smoldering her way into some poor fool's heart.

Little else need be said about Deacon Lunchbox other than the man came on stage dressed in jeans and a woman's brassiere, swinging a roaring chainsaw. His music — well, his banging (on a tin drum and an empty CO2 canister with a hammer) was as unusual as his lyrics, which ranged from the ever-famous Jesse Helms, to Dollywood, to his poignant poetry on love, screamed through a megaphone. The beauty of the performance, if such a word can be applied to a man whose idea of white-man's breakdancing is sitting in a chair smoking a cigarette

### Amanda Graves Concert

and drinking a beer, was that for all his obnoxiousness, the crowd responded enthusiastically and even purchased some of his poetry at the show.

In sharp contrast to the Deacon's performance, the jody grind came on stage and actually attempted chords in their music. And they accomplished it beautifully.

The jody grind performed several songs from their latest album, *One Man's Trash Is Another Man's Treasure*, as well as other material. "Chainsaw," about Kelly Hogan Murray's pit bull terrier and unfortunately missing from the album, is a perennial crowd pleaser, and Cradle regulars were not disappointed. Interspersing jazzy numbers with bluesy ballads, the jody grind managed to maintain the attention of the audience.

Though not a huge audience, it was a respectful and reverent one, due in large part to Kelly Hogan Murray's vocal inundation. Backed by the mercuric rhythm of drummer Walter Brewer, the thumping bass of Robert Hayes and the

beckoning wailings of Bill Taft's guitar, Murray swayed her way into and out of songs. Her outstretched fingers seemed to channel power from the audience which enabled her to fuel her passionate croonings. This woman doesn't just have soul. She has your soul.

Unlike some bands who lose fire going from live to album, the jody grind's *One Man's Trash Is Another Man's Treasure* is about as close to live as you can get. There are a lot of cover songs on the album, but they aren't the ones you'd expect if you've never heard the group play live. The jody grind even manages Burt Bacharach's "Wishin' and Hopin'" with success. Other songs of mention from the album, also some of their best live performances, are "Peter Gunn" and "Eight-Ball." The album is half covers, half originals, but the covers are pulled off with such originality that they correlate well with the rest of the album.

If you missed Saturday's performance at the Cat's Cradle, you're out of luck until they swing through the area again. In the meantime, for a sampling of the live experience, you can attempt to dig up the album/cassette/CD at your favorite music store.

## Student renters should have insurance

By SCOTT MAXWELL  
Staff Writer

Most students rarely think about what they would do if they returned from classes one day and found all their worldly possessions up in smoke.

But unfortunately, events such as fires, tornadoes and thefts do occur, and students without apartment insurance may not know where to turn.

According to the UNC Department of Housing, about 65 percent of the students enrolled at the University live in off-campus houses or apartments, with no guarantee against fires, theft and natural disasters.

Dorothy Bernholz, director of Student Legal Services, said they handled about 350 cases each year related to problems arising from unexpected landlord or tenant events, which is more than the annual number of traffic violations they handle.

But renters can choose to protect their investments. Homeowner's insurance, which is an insurance coverage plan that many parents of students already own for their homes, can be extended to protect students' possessions.

Most of the time, however, parents' homeowner's insurance only covers 10 percent of a student's possessions, said Carl Lloyd, insurance agent at Farm

Bureau Insurance in Chapel Hill.

But 10 percent may not be enough to pay for students' damaged computers, televisions and stereos.

"When you live in an apartment, if you have valuable goods, check with your parents to see if homeowner's covers it," Bernholz advised. "If not, get renter's insurance."

Most insurance companies offer such insurance. In Chapel Hill, it usually costs between \$75 and \$125 a year, depending upon variables such as whether the house is made of brick or wood, where it is located and even how close the residence is to a fire hydrant. Insurance protects residents from loss due to fire, lightning, wind, hail, theft and other unforeseen events.

In a disaster situation, such as a fire, the insurance company of the apartment complex would first find the cause of the fire and determine if any negligence was involved.

If there was negligence on the part of a student, for instance if groceries were left on a stove burner, the apartment complex would sue the individual. Then the other students in the residence would have the opportunity to sue their liable roommate.

If the student does not have renter's insurance, he must pay all the fees. On the other hand, if the student owns renter's insurance, the insurance company will provide the lawyer and pay

the expenses.

Farm Bureau Insurance covers about 250 UNC students with their renter's insurance policy. The owner of an apartment complex is responsible for virtually nothing, Lloyd said, which reinforces the necessity of having a policy. But few students do.

"When there is a disaster, everyone wakes up for a while," he said.

Vicki Causby of Village Insurance Inc. agreed. They cover only 30 UNC students. "What would they do if they suddenly had no clothes to wear and no place to live?"

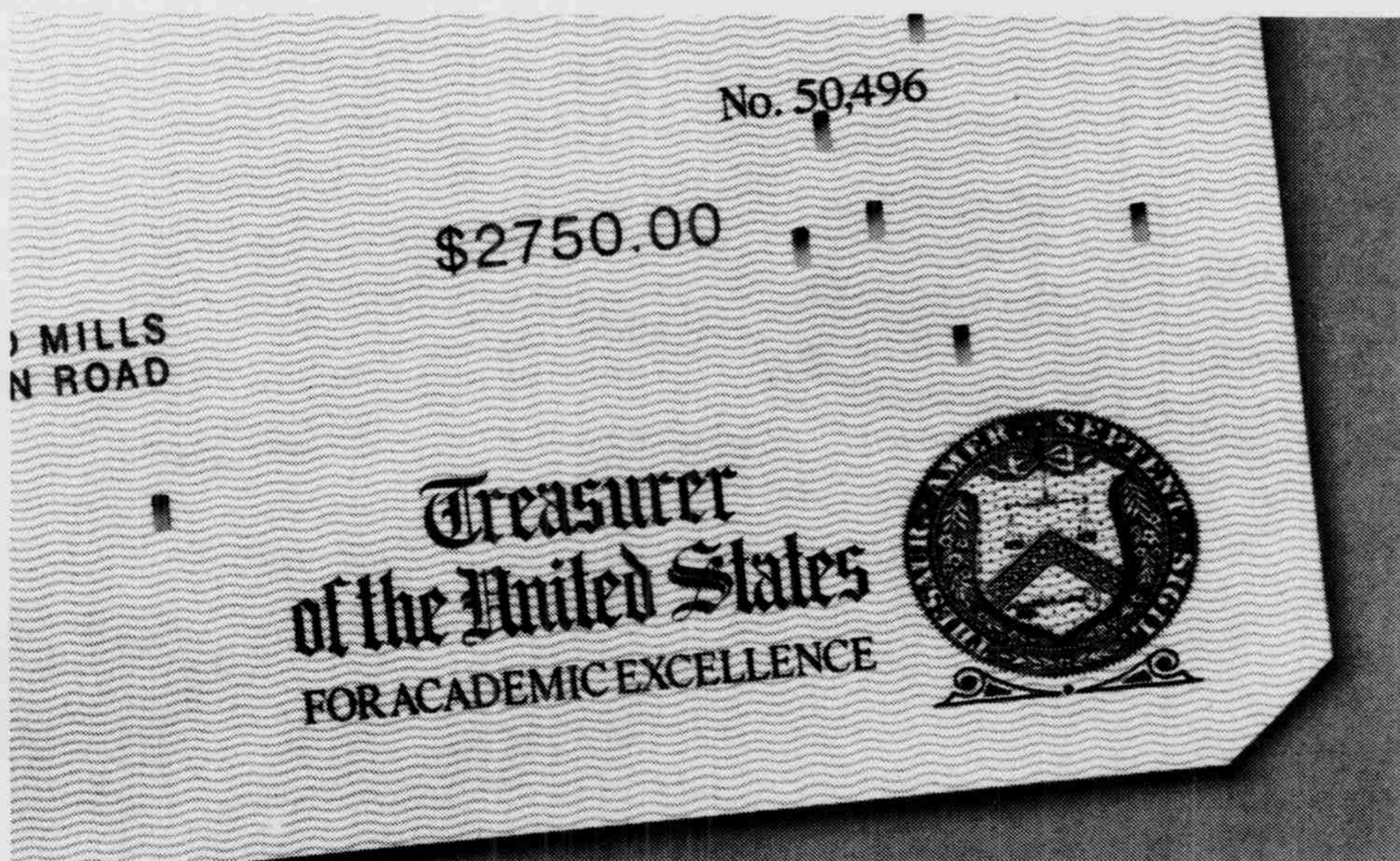
Nancy Johnson, a sophomore journalism major from Robersonville, lives at Townhouse Apartments in Chapel Hill. She and her two roommates are not covered by any insurance plan. "I never really thought about it," Johnson said. "I guess I just assumed that anything that would break or become damaged would be covered by the complex."

Randolph Segar, owner of Townhouse Apartments, said they try to encourage students to get renter's insurance. But students aren't always receptive.

"It's about all we can do to get students to pay their electricity bill and rent, much less get optional insurance."

The fact is that if there is a fire or disaster, regardless of who the guilty party is, without renter's insurance students will lose their valuables for good.

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