

Talk Shows Offer Mindless Daytime Diversion for Students

With ever-increasing ranks, hosts such as Geraldo, Carnie Wilson and Ricki Lake stir up controversy.

BY JESSICA BANOV
STAFF WRITER

Do you want to find out about murderous mothers, breast sizes or cheating newlyweds? All you have to do is surf the channels during the day, and you will find these and many more scintillating topics on the talk show circuit.

Daytime television has become slightly more sleazy this fall with the onslaught of eight — yes, eight — new talk shows added to the array of already existing ones.

New hosts range from Carnie Wilson of Wilson Phillips fame, to Gabrielle Carteris, otherwise known as Andrea from "Beverly Hills 90210." Even Tempestt Bledsoe, one of the kids from the "Cosby Show," and reformed Partridge Family member Danny Bonaduce have time slots to battle it out with guests on their shows. From 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on nearly every channel, one can find a wide variety of hosting styles and audience interactions.

Many people wonder why there are so many of these talk shows and why it seems like half the hosts have been rejected from other parts of the entertainment industry.

"It's so easy to do, obviously," said Monica Murrell, a freshman from Matthews. "They see others and say, 'I could do that.' Carnie has one, why can't I?"

Ronda Barnes, a junior from Cincinnati, said she thought viewers had an influence on the number of shows. "It's probably because everyone's addicted to them," Barnes said. "People like the trashy ones with

controversial topics."

And one can certainly find trashy shows with controversial topics. Ken Page, a sophomore from Greensboro, said, "I tend to watch the lower-grade shows, the dirt shows, meaning, 'Who's sleeping with who?' — Geraldo-type shows."

Shows run the gamut of subjects from relationships to makeovers to love on the Internet. "How can you not laugh at these topics?" said Karen Caskie, a junior from Greensboro. "When I don't have anything to do, I just flip channels to see which is most entertaining."

But part of the entertainment is derived from how the guests deal with these topics and how they interact with the host. "It's interesting to see people make a fool of themselves on TV," said Alisha Richmond, a freshman from Pineville.

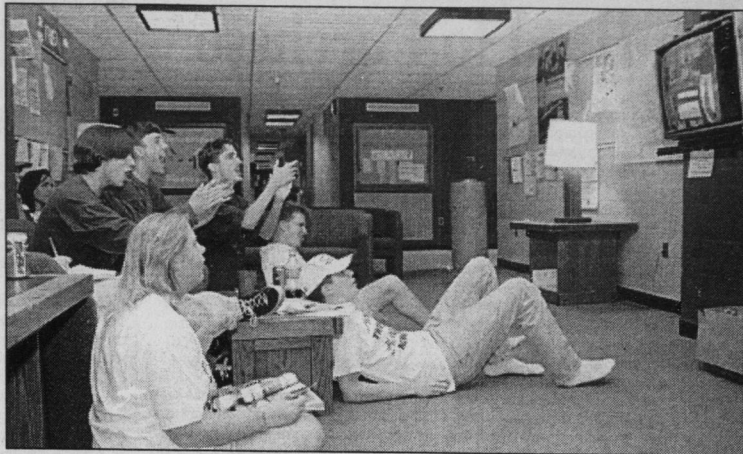
Caskie said watching the guests provided her with a reality check. "When you see how pitiful they are, you realize your life is normal in comparison," she said. "You have to question the fact to see reality. Just don't think about how they are representing society."

Taisha Milton, a freshman from Charlotte, agreed. "Most of the stuff (on the shows) is true about society today," Milton said. "Some of it you just don't think about because it's not happening near you."

Thinking, or lack thereof, adds to the appeal of watching talk shows. "They're not real serious," Barnes said. "You come in here (the Student Union TV lounge). You don't have to think. You sit and watch, and you leave."

Caskie said the choice of shows depended on what you want to watch. "There's trashy stuff like, 'I Slept With Your Mother and Got Her Pregnant,' or Oprah," she said. Caskie and Milton agreed that Oprah Winfrey seemed to reach a different type of audience. The two preferred the mindless shows.

"Oprah is in a class of her own," Milton said. "She



Students in the Spanish house in Carmichael Residence Hall watch fellow student Colleen Driscoll, a sophomore from Raleigh, in her appearance on Wednesday's "Ricki Lake Show."

caters more to an older audience."

Murrell added, "Oprah's more into 'Better Homes and Gardens.'"

"Oprah's just different," Caskie said. "That's why I like Ricki (Lake) — you don't have to think about it."

Lake seems to be the "trash" show of preference, and the new additions don't seem to live up to expectations. Page, who enjoys Ricki Lake the most, said: "Ricki is the armpit of all talk shows. She simply talks

about relationships and every little fact about them. She doesn't care about solving it, just the dirt, trying to figure out who is the worst one and laughing at it on national television."

"It's all about trash," Murrell said. "They put the stupidest people on there."

"The names of the topics, they're just not appealing at all," said Page. "They may be exciting to a very strange audience, but then again, what is strange?"

Group Fights Domestic Violence, Raises Funds Through T-Shirt Sales

BY NATALIE NEIMAN
STAFF WRITER

Members of the UNC Law Domestic Violence Project hope to raise \$3,000 for the Orange/Durham Coalition for Battered Women.

The group's fund-raiser is planned in conjunction with October's designation as National Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

"This is a pervasive epidemic in our culture," said Liz Erhardt, co-chairwoman of the project and a second-year law student. "And the fact that it goes unrecognized is an example of the marginalization

of women in society."

To reach the \$3,000 goal, volunteers for the project will sell T-shirts throughout October. The T-shirts will be on sale in the Pit.

Student Congress on Wednesday night passed a resolution drafted by the group which recognized October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month at the University and acknowledged the problem as one that needs increased attention.

Besides the fund-raiser, the three co-chairwomen and other members of the UNC Law Domestic Violence Project also work as court advocates in Durham and Orange County courthouses. The volun-

teers inform women of their legal options when dealing with a batterer and help victims fill out complicated domestic violence reports, co-chairwoman and second-year law student Donyelle Eller said.

"The form says 'Tell us the history of abuse,' and they give you three lines to do it," she said. "If you don't have someone explain to you to attach another sheet of paper, it's hard to get a restraining order. You need to give extensive history of abuse. Women don't know this."

Many times the advocates will accompany the women to court to alleviate their fears of the court system, co-chairwoman and second-year law student Anne Gomez said.

"You're going to have to tell a judge who's going to be an authority figure all sorts of embarrassing, personal things," she said. "Not to mention it's open court." "Most of the women I work with in civil court come back for their hearings and are

ready to proceed," Eller said. "Once they realize they have someone there ... it takes away a major scare factor."

Every 12 seconds a woman in the United States is beaten, and domestic violence is the largest single cause of injury to women in the country, according to statistics from the Orange/Durham Coalition for Battered Women.

Women should remove themselves from abusive situations immediately, but that is not always as easy as it sounds, said Joe Krieg, a crisis intervention counselor at the Chapel Hill Police Department.

"In domestic issues, women can't just walk out," Krieg said. "They have children to consider, homes. And I say women because over 90 percent of victims are women."

Relationships are complicated in general, Eller said. Others must be careful not to criticize women for staying in abusive relationships, she said.

"It's hard for many of us to walk away from a relationship," Eller said. "Many of us don't think about that. Instead of asking, 'Why don't they (victims) leave?' we should ask, 'Why do they (abusers) batter?'"

A pro-arrest policy exists in Chapel Hill which allows officers to arrest someone for domestic violence if they have probable cause, even if the victim refuses to press charges, Krieg said.

Victims of domestic abuse can take out a 50-B Domestic Violence Protection Order, which prohibits an abuser from calling, harassing, stalking, writing or visiting the victim, Krieg said. The order also forces the abuser to leave the home in situations where the couple lives together, he said.

Krieg said women in need of emergency assistance should talk to a counselor at the Orange/Durham Coalition for Battered Women.

Midnight Tip-Off to Start Season

BY DAVID PARK
STAFF WRITER

Students and Tar Heel basketball fans will get a late-night introduction to the 1995-96 men's basketball team when the doors of the Smith Center open Saturday evening for the fourth annual Midnight Madness.

The UNC cheerleaders will perform, and there will be door prizes, contests and the main attraction — the first official practice of the men's basketball team.

"Midnight Madness is an excellent opportunity to have a more interactive setting for students to get involved and acquainted with the team," said Anthony Reid, president of the Carolina Athletic Association.

"It gives students a chance to get an early preview of the team, and it allows everyone to see how the team will grow and develop as the season goes on," he said.

The doors open for students at 10:40 p.m. and at 10:55 p.m. for the general public. The madness is set to begin at 11 p.m.

Performing groups, including the UNC cheerleaders, dance team and the Tar Heel Voices, will entertain the crowd, he said.

The crowd will participate in raffles and other contests and will count down the minutes on the score board until midnight, when the team takes the court.

During the hour-long practice, fans will get to see Dean Smith in action, coaching a team that offers some talented new faces, including freshmen Vince Carter and Antwan Jamison, and time-tested veterans like Dante Calabria, Jeff McInnis and Serge Zwikker, Reid said.

Reid said this year, audience members could "win their weight in Coke" in a raffle or win prime seats to the Duke or Virginia games by making free-throws and three-point shots.

Also, there will be a Delta Airlines "beat the clock" contest which will pit fans against a team to score the most points in 45 seconds. The winner gets round-trip tickets on the airline to any destination in the country.

The program originally was held in the 10,000-seat Carmichael Auditorium, UNC's older basketball complex. The location was moved to the Smith Center because of growing numbers.

He said he expected 10,000 people to attend.

Positive Response to March

An informal survey of 35 black women was conducted to determine whether the Million Man March will have a positive or negative effect on the community.

Positive	29
Negative	2
Not Sure	3
No Comment	1

BY LIZ WELCHMAN

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