

'Lou Grant' a bright spot in lackluster TV season

1977 has not been a vintage year for new network prime-time shows. Only two — *Soap* and *The Love Boat* — have garnered enough public attention to place them in the Nielsen Top 20, and neither of these has this reporter cheering for more.

However, there is one new show which has done well enough in the ratings to stay on the air and, at the same time, forced me to continually shuffle my Tuesday night plans so as not to miss an episode. That new show is *Lou Grant*.

wavelength

By JIMMY WILKES

Ed Asner, the soft-hearted lion of *The Mary Tyler Moore Show*, is Lou Grant. Asner is an excellent actor, and, as he proved in his performances in *Rich Man, Poor Man* and *Roots*, he is not restricted to comedy.

In *Lou Grant*, Asner plays the spunky and energetic city editor of a major daily newspaper. Along with Grant there is a managing editor (Mason Adams) who constantly finds himself situated between Grant and the formidable business-minded woman publisher Mrs. Pyncheon (Nancy Marchand). For example, in a recent

episode concerning the coverage of an obscenity trial, the paper's attorney tried to get Lou to curb his between-the-lines attack of a local anti-obscenity leader before the leader took the paper to court. The lawyer agreed with Lou that there was no libel involved, but he didn't want to see the paper tied up in court over what he termed as "unnecessary" nuisance suits. This brought about a confrontation between Mrs. Pyncheon and Grant. She began by reminding Lou that "this isn't the *New York Times*... such a suit could cost the paper a lot of money which could be better used." Lou then gave the familiar First Amendment argument and said that he refused to tone down the articles. Finally, after much discussion, Mrs. Pyncheon gave in and told Lou that he had her support.

The key to the show, and to this episode, is that for the first time in this reporter's memory the newspaper business is being realistically portrayed. It was very refreshing indeed to see reporters complain to Grant in an early episode that there were no interesting stories on the agenda that day. Anyone who has worked for any length of time in the news business knows that days are more often filled with stories about the new city water system and dull city council meetings than about local "Watergates."

On the whole, the show has had interesting and believable scripts, and it has this reporter's vote for the best new show of the year.

Chamber group to perform Mass

A Mass in Latin will be celebrated at 5:30 p.m. Saturday in the Chapel of St. Thomas More Church, 740 Gimghoul Rd., Chapel Hill. Once a common occurrence in the Catholic Church, the Mass in Latin is now somewhat of a special event. This service will also be highlighted by the presence of the University Chamber Singers under the direction of Robert Porco. A select ensemble of 18 voices, the group will perform the *Missa in Illo Tempore*, a work in six parts a cappella by Claudio Monteverdi. Interested persons of all faiths are invited to attend.

Undergrad advising system criticized

By BERNIE RANSBOTTOM
Staff Writer

The undergraduate advising system received a great deal of criticism and a few suggestions for improvement Wednesday when about 35 students met with representatives of the Committee on Academic Advising.

The discussion was a product of an open meeting held by the committee to determine student opinion of the system and to seek out particular problems and suggestions for the future development of the system.

The committee was appointed by Samuel R. Williamson, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, to investigate the undergraduate advising system and make recommendations for possible changes by March 1, 1978.

Of the criticisms leveled at the system, the one most frequently noted by students was the advisers' lack of expertise. Most advisers receive only on-the-job training, which the students at the meeting said is inadequate to meet student needs.

"My professor didn't know that much about the requirements," senior Paul McDonald said. "I got the impression when I went in that he opened a book and read the same words that I could read."

"They're handed a bunch of booklets and pamphlets and told to go advise," said Larry Bennett, a senior zoology major. "They receive no specific training, and many don't know how to advise. Some of them prefer just not to advise."

This last complaint was voiced frequently at the session as students speculated that many

professors take advising assignments not because they are interested in helping students, but for the extra pay.

Several students noted that although they received notices from their advisers asking them to come by for an appointment, they were greeted rudely and given the impression that the adviser resented their answering this request.

Students basically advocated one of two remedies for the present advising situation: either establish more faculty or professional advisers offices in the residence halls, or develop a more structured and organized peer-counseling program.

A General College advising office has been maintained in Henderson Residence College (Conner, Winston and Alexander dorms) for the past two years, and student reaction has been highly favorable.

Accessibility and personal contact are two of the advantages of such a system, noted William Porterfield, a junior who lives in Loringhaus. Porterfield is a member of an Ehringhaus group which conducted a poll in that dorm to determine student reaction to the establishment of such a program there.

Petitions were posted calling for an academic adviser to maintain an office in Ehringhaus. In a span of a few hours, about 250 of the 600 residents signed the petition, Porterfield said.

Several students also emphasized that a distinction needs to be made between advising — the dissemination of basic, factual information — and counseling — personal development and planning.

Although both types of advice are available on the UNC campus, students were in general agreement that these facilities are poorly publicized and coordinated, and that most students either do not know where to go for help or are not motivated to seek help until their problems become insurmountable.

New Hope conference scrapped

Continued from page 1.

Horton said that Student Affairs has not always acted on black students' behalf in dealing with the administration. He pointed to the water-throwing incident last year at Avery dorm and moves to relocate Upendo Lounge as examples. He also said Student Government has showed a lack of faith in handling past BSM funds allocations.

"It is fair to say that on all sides there has been an erosion of trust," Strickland said.

"There are a lot of questions on the commitment of white faculty and staff," Strickland said. "There is a lot of misunderstanding by many people of the

BSM's goals and whether it is representative of all black students."

"This needs to be attacked on a small scale, where people come face-to-face," Strickland said.

Whether a conference could contribute to black-white dialogue has been questioned. Horton said that when he asked a few black students about the New Hope Conference he was told that past conferences and discussion groups did not accomplish anything.

But Underwood said the New Hope Conference would not be just talk.

Underwood said that small groups of seven to 14 people would present proposals. "At the end of the conference," Underwood said, "the proposals would be written up on paper in front of the room. Each person would sign his or her name under each proposal."

Horton said he was disappointed that the New Hope Conference was not held this semester and said he thinks the conference would do some good.

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