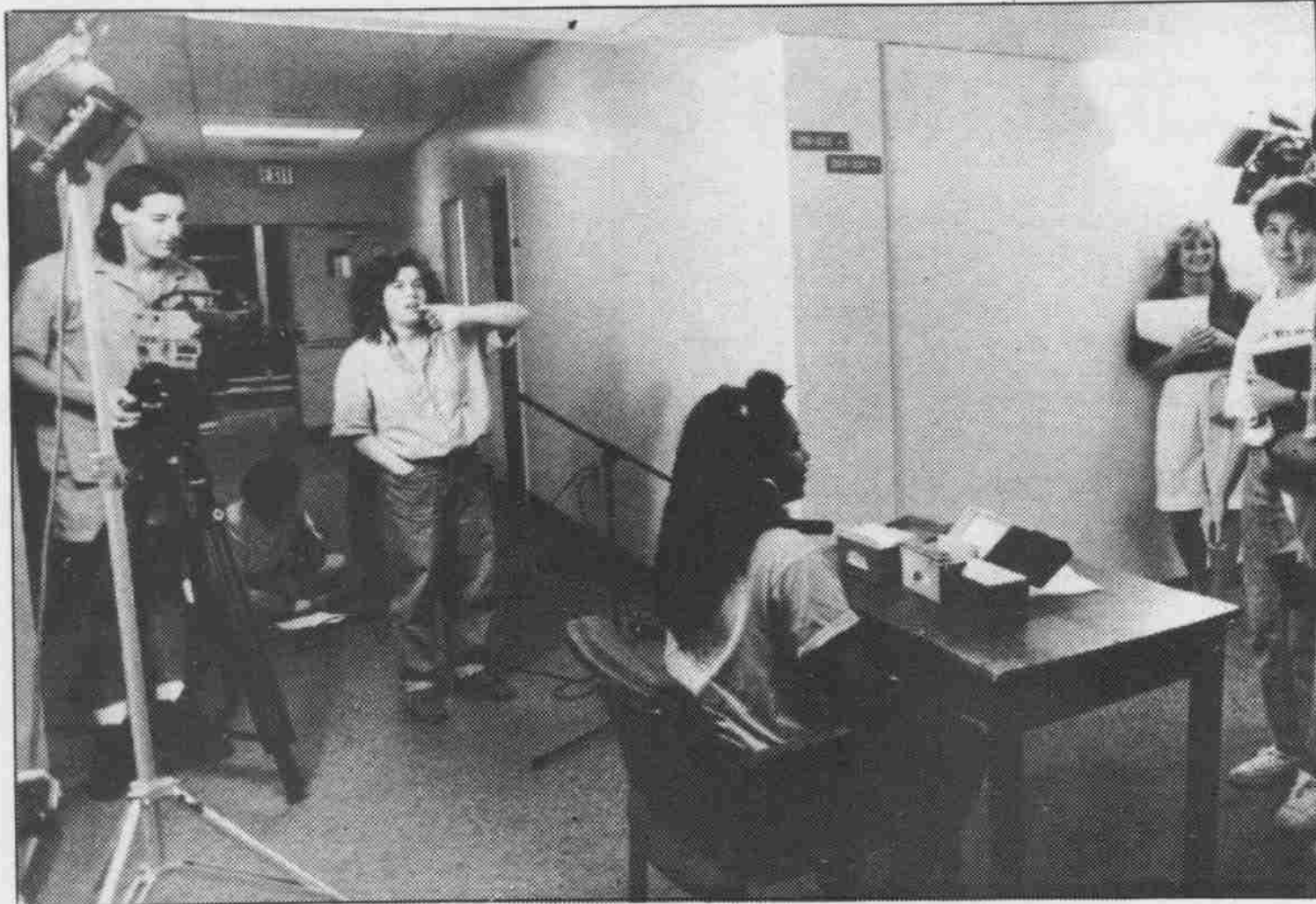


TELEVISION



UNC's own 'General College' airs nationally, not to mention on STV

DTH/Jodi Anderson

In case you just tuned in...

General College, UNC's very own student-produced soap opera, will return to the Student Television lineup in just a few weeks, with the premiere scheduled for Oct. 2.

The show portrays the lives of various students on the Chapel Hill campus. Although there's no telling what new turns the characters' lives will take this year, here's a look at some of the *General College* history to catch you up to date before the new action starts.

The largest family on the show is the Davenport clan, which consists of four sisters and one brother (at least that's all who have stumbled into town so far). The three older sisters, Tessa, Trisha and Tonya, are serious cocaine wenches, but since Tessa has shot her supplier (boyfriend Trevor), they've had to lighten up on the powder. Tessa has convinced the semi-amnesiac Anne Burns that Anne shot Trevor out of self defense, but Anne has been having migraines... Hmmm, maybe her subconscious will reveal the truth. But not the whole truth, because neither Anne nor any of the Davenport gals know that Trevor is really alive!

Another storyline follows one of the most troubled couples on *General College*: Jason and Courtney. First, they had to overcome pressure concerning their interracial relationship from Jason's racist Tri Psi fraternity brothers. Fortunately the brothers were stopped before they permanently maimed the love birds.

After a beautiful reconciliation, Courtney and Jason were strolling innocently in the woods when they happened upon Trevor's body. This occurred just as the police arrived. The police suspected them of murder, so the young couple ran out of town. One of the formerly racist frat

BRYAN BURNS

soaps

boys suddenly became a liberal-thinking, concered and decent human and took them to stay on his grandmother's farm in Clover, S.C. They were hiding in the barn when Grandma found them, but she took pity and let them stay inside (she's such a pushover). Now posing as a married couple and away from the traumas of college life, Jason and Courtney are considering adding sex to their relationship.

The only married couple on the show is Brendan and Mary Catherine, but the two have had a rough time getting started. After spending damn close to nine months contemplating how to deal with her pregnancy, they decided to "do the right thing" and kicked off their life together with a lavishly cheesy wedding. Major faux pas: Mary Catherine collapsed at the altar, just after the "I-do's," and she lost the baby.

Although they were trying hard to make their marriage work after all this trauma, Brendan was fascinated by seductive Simone, the mature and (supposedly) sexy neighbor. Simone has children that were taken from her at birth, but she now plans to track them down — could be important this season! Meanwhile, Mary Catherine grew closer to Professor Kingsley as they searched for Sarah.

Who's Sarah? OK, she fell in love with Kingsley a while ago, then she went psycho, began making death threats and ended up blind. When she went away for sight-restoring surgery, she just didn't ever come back. Kingsley took off to find her, but his

plane crashed and he hasn't been found. Later Mary Catherine found Sarah tied up in Kingsley's closet. Of course Sarah maliciously planted herself there and convinced Mary Catherine that she had been kidnapped by Kingsley and kept in the closet for months. But, hey, she can see, and Brendan and Mary Catherine might still have a chance.

Another couple that's recently been reunited is Alex and Jack. After each had an affair (with Tripp, a Duke snob, and Priscilla, a UNC bitch/slut), they have realized they're still in love — how great! Jack has given up his chance for a recording contract, because Alex is worth it (literally worth it — the girl is loaded). But Alex still may have problems; it looks like her history of multiple personalities is about to become common knowledge.

Of course the only thing that keeps Alex and Jack going is the gossiping network of Zoe, who helped drive them apart, find new loves and finally reconcile. Now, however, Zoe is getting news of Alex's secret past and there's just no telling what she'll accomplish with that info.

Zoe is also putting together a new relationship between the youngest Davenport, Tara, and Chaz. Chaz's older brother Billy has been involved with his fair share of Davenports, and he knows what they're really all about. No doubt this will lead to lots of family controversy.

So that should get you started on jarring that memory. There'll be more history next week and then we'll get rolling with the new dirt, which I'm sure there will be plenty of.

General College runs Mon.-Fri. at 11 p.m. on STV (Carolina Cable channel 11).

The few, the proud, the good premieres

Had enough? By now we've seen more TV premieres than Hitler had troops, but bear with me. Despite all the shows I ragged on last week, there is a handful that might just make it. Here are the ones that are worth a glance.

SUNDAYS:

One of the most acclaimed new shows of the season is *Life Goes On* (ABC), a family drama featuring a 23-year-old actor with Downs syndrome. Chris Burke plays Corky Thacher, an 18-year-old boy with Downs who is "mainstreamed" into the freshman class of a public high school. His younger sister, Becca, is embarrassed by being in the same classes with Corky, but the rest of the family stands behind him. The show promises plenty of typical family traumas about teenagers, the bathroom, etc., but adds a more serious and touching side with Corky's character. In a word, it's heartwarming.

MONDAYS:

If you're not into heartwarming, there's always Gerald McRaney of *Major Dad* (CBS). McRaney got a lot of praise for his portrayal of Rick on *Simon and Simon* and for playing Suzanne's (Delta Burke) ex-husband on *Designing Women*. Marrying Burke in real life may have helped him land his own series, where he plays Marine Major J.D. "Mac" MacGillis and falls in love with a liberal reporter — who just happens to have three daughters. What *Major Dad* may not have in quality, it makes up for in network strategy: this show leads off CBS's great Monday line up, which also includes the Emmy-winning *Murphy Brown* and *Designing Women*. Give him a chance; if nothing else, maybe he can finish off ALF.

Also new to this night of lady reporters and Southern belles is *The Famous Teddy Z*, another CBS offering. John Cryer (of *Pretty in Pink* and *Hiding Out*) plays young Teddy Zakalokis, an employee in the Unlimited Talent Agency mailroom who becomes a respected Hollywood

BILLY STOCKARD

t.v.

agent overnight. How's that for dreams come true? The critics like this one, but like the Church Lady says, "You be the judge."

TUESDAYS:

Here's another strategically placed premiere. With *Chicken Soup* right after big (pardon the word) hit *Roseanne*, ABC figures it can't lose. What's *Chicken Soup*, you ask? Besides being a favorite of cold-sufferers, it's a new sitcom starring Jackie Mason and Lynn Redgrave. Think of it as an inter-religious *Moonlighting* with Mason playing a Jew who falls for Redgrave, an Irish Catholic mother of three. Who knows, maybe it's the season for odd couples with three children. With this time slot, this dish won't get cold.

WEDNESDAYS:

What can I say about Cloris Leachman and Harvey Korman? Even picturing them together would put an audience in stitches, so NBC won't need much of a plot for *The Nut House*. Leachman and Korman (minus Tim Conway) have been brought together by Mel Brooks to take charge of a run-down New York hotel.

Leachman even has double roles, as Ms. Frick, the head housekeeper, and as Mrs. Nutt, the hotel's owner. The combination of this premiere and perennial favorite *Night Court* promise an hour of slapstick, off-the-wall comedy. This one may be around next year, which is no small accomplishment.

Other than that, there's not much to talk about. The weekend fare doesn't look too exciting, although a few shows might last a season or two. Your best bets are the tried-and-true shows that are offering all-new episodes for at least a couple of weeks. Other than that, I'll see you at the movies.

Crook's Corner ★
Fine Southern Dining

And
Sunday
Brunch.

★ ★ ★
Open at 6:00 pm for Dinner
Sunday Brunch 10:30 - 2:30 pm
610 W. Franklin St.
Chapel Hill, NC

