

# TELEVISION

## The best of the fall season, so far

**W**ith Labor Day bringing the summer of 1991 to an official close, college students grudgingly turn from carefree days on sandy beaches and evening boat rides on the lake to days filled with classes and evenings of homework and studies.

If you're like me, you've been too busy to notice that there has been nothing on television for the past two weeks. Perhaps you've been tied down studying, standing in various lines, and all the other little extras that make the college experience such a "joy."

I finally seized an opportunity a few nights ago to spend a some time with my television set. It had been so long since we had seen each other that I had to make an effort to remember where the on/off button was.

At any rate, I anticipated the heavy workloads that awaited you upon your return to lovely Chapel Hill and decided that I wanted to free you of at least a portion of your problems and frustrations.

At first, I had the best of intentions: I tried to get two final exams waived for all my readers. This attempt failed, however, as the majority of the administration felt that torture tactics are a must for UNC students.

After several similar ideas failed, I

**CAROLE-ANNE HALLYBURTON**  
T.V.

decided I could at least offer some ideas of how to spend those five minutes of free time you have each week. So while you were sunning on the beaches and cruising the lakes on jetskis, I stayed at home compiling a list of each of the four major television networks' new programs for the fall season. The line-up looks great!

ABC begins its season with *Home Improvement*, a show in which comedian Tim Allen acts as the host of a show-within-a-show, called "Tool Time." Allen's swagger, coupled with his oversized tool belt, makes him out to be "Mr. Macho." It's a different story when he's at home, though, where his nerve-wracking kids and liberated wife take control of the do-it-yourself handyman. **Airs 8:30 p.m. Tuesdays.**

*Homefront*, a series set in immediate post-World War II, provides a bit of history education. With the happy return of American soldiers from overseas, topics such as the rise of feminism and prejudice in America are dealt with as America moves into the 1950s. **Airs 10 p.m. Tuesdays.**

*Grownups*, a sitcom created by James L. Brooks (of *Simpsons* fame),

stars Marsha Mason and Alex Rocco. Mason plays the oldest of three continually bickering sisters. Rocco, a notorious scene-stealer, is predicted to do some terrific upstaging. **Airs 9 p.m. Wednesdays.**

Stories concerning sisters seem to be selling scripts this year. *Good and Evil* is a sitcom focusing on two sisters who don't match at all. Teri Garr and Margaret Whitten star in the series. In the plot, Garr dumps her historical image as "sweet and innocent" to play the villainess. **Airs 10 p.m. Wednesdays.**

*Bird and Katt* — yes, another detective show — teams James Earl Jones with Richard Crenna to solve some crimes together, using the buddy system. Fans of *Gabriel's Fire* will love this one. **Airs 8 p.m. Thursdays.**

*FBI: The Untold Stories*. Perhaps this is another *Unsolved Mysteries*. Maybe we'll get a look at some law-breaking in politics. **Airs 9 p.m. Thursdays.**

It is difficult to picture Suzanne Somers married, but wed she is in *Step by Step*. Somers and TV-hubby Patrick Duffy have a houseful of love ... and kids. Most of their problems surround parenthood. **Airs 8:30 p.m. Fridays.**

Here's a winner. Michael Chiklis stars as *The Commish*, an almost perfect chief of police who always gets his man ... and, most of the time, his woman. **Airs 10 p.m. Saturdays.**

CBS will enter the fall ratings race with six new programs:

Redd Foxx is back, with Delta Reese, playing a happily retired couple; ready to sleep, travel, shop and start enjoying life. All goes well for the first week of retirement until a divorced daughter returns home to stay and brings her three grandchildren with her. **Airs 8 p.m. Wednesdays.**

Another promising sitcom is *Princesses*, set in New York City. The three main characters are all princesses in some respect. Twiggy plays an actual princess while her two co-stars, Fran Drescher and Julie Hagerty, are wanna-bes. It never hurts to dream. **Airs 8 p.m. Fridays.**

In *Palace Guard*, Marcy Walker plays a former actress while D. W. Moffett plays a former thief. This unlikely pair is thrown together as they begin new jobs as hotel employees. **Airs 10 p.m. Fridays.**

Ever wondered how the Federal Witness Protection Program works? Connie Sellica has been relocated by the WPP as a con artist in *P.S. I Love You*. Greg Evigan poses as her husband. **Airs 10 p.m. Saturdays.**

That's it for this week. Select your favorites, mark your calendars, and watch for a new list next Thursday.

This article will be concluded in next week's *Omni*.

### NIELSEN RATINGS

1. (1) **Cheers**, NBC  
18.8, 17.5 million homes
2. (2) **60 Minutes**, CBS  
18.6, 17.3 million homes
3. (3) **Roseanne**, ABC  
18.3, 17.0 million homes
4. (X) **STAT**, ABC  
17.1, 15.9 million homes
5. (9) **Murphy Brown**, CBS  
16.3, 15.2 million homes
6. (8) **America's Funniest Home Videos**, ABC  
15.8, 14.7 million homes
7. (10) **Designing Women**, CBS  
15.6, 14.5 million homes
8. (12) **America's Funniest People**, ABC  
15.4, 14.3 million homes
9. (10) **Empty Nest**, NBC  
15.1, 14.1 million homes
9. (4) **A Different World**, NBC  
15.1, 14.1 million homes
11. (12) **Golden Girls**, NBC  
14.7, 13.7 million homes
11. (17) **Family Matters**, ABC  
14.7, 13.7 million homes

Listings include the week's ranking, with full season-to-date ranking in parentheses, rating for the week, and total homes. An "X" in parentheses denotes one-time-only presentation. A rating measures the percentage of the nation's 90.4 million TV homes.

## Tone Def

cheap rent and fun mud staying in Pete Townshend's flat in 1970s London. Their audaciously metaphysical name spurned endless debate and interpretation, baffled the scholars and inspired other bands to explore the existential with a musical moniker. (See *The Jam*, *The Fix*, *The Cure* and especially *The Band*.)

**Helmet, Finger and The Feelies** - These three groups spent time together in the Pee Dee Correctional Institute for perverse public touching. Incidentally, Pee Wee Herman served time with the aforementioned rockers but, unlike the musicians, refused a defense lawyer, boasting, "I can get my own self off."

**Kool & The Gang and The Sugarhill Gang** - Though childhood chums, these two gangs formed in third grade when one bunch liked to rap the alphabet, adding extemporaneous addenda and cute rhymes, while the other violently opposed such vocal delivery, opting for soulful melodies and lots of horns, especially during the vowels.

**Smashing Pumpkins** - Watched way too much David Letterman.

**The Screaming Trees** - These three guys grew up in Washington state and all their parents worked for the Natural Forestry Foundation. They played with Lincoln Logs as youngsters and acquired an affinity

for nature's arbor plots. Woody Owl dominated their nighttime dreams. The boys drank Pine-Sol behind their moms' backs and often locked themselves in their bedrooms to eat paper. One day a fire broke out near the boys' small town, ravaging the massive forest. (Smurfs were killed and Azrael the cat had babies.) The three young guitar players plunged into a forty-day delirium, drinking only Pine-Sol and eating only bark. They awoke screaming.

**R.E.M.** - Ha! They fooled everybody. It's got nothing to do with the hyper-intense period of dreaming that occurs during human sleep. It stands for: Real Easy Money.

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### SOMETHING CLEVER THIS WAY COMES TO PAGE 3

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3:00 **101** 4:30  
CLASSIC **DALMATIANS** 6:00

REGARDING **HENRY** 9:20  
HARRISON FORD

3:10 **HARLEY DAVIDSON** 7:10  
AND THE **MARLBORO MAN** 9:10

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'Jimmy crack corn,  
and I don't care.'

What the hell kind of  
an attitude is that?

**OMNIBUS**