

# Steve Carter:

By Vicki Ruhga

Steve Carter, a UNL journalism graduate student, got a taste of TV directing, earlier this month when he spent two weeks in California courtesy of Gary Marshall, producer of TV shows "Happy Days," "Joanie Loves Chachie" and "Laverne and Shirley."

Carter, even apprentice directed two episodes of "Joanie Loves Chachie" while he was there.

"I spent most of my time on the "Joanie Loves

## Student in Focus

Chachie" set because director John Tracy and the cast were willing to let me ask questions," he said. "It cost them money for me to take the director's time, because each episode of the show costs \$450,000."

Carter said he also visited the sets of "The Fall Guy," "Trapper John, M.D.," "The Love Boat" and "Hart to Hart."

"I got no credit or money for it, it was just an experience-type thing," he said. "I was never able to apprentice direct unless the director suggested it. A couple of directors even made me stay off the floor while they were shooting."

While in California, Carter also pitched a situation comedy he created tentatively called "Things are Looking Up."

Bobbie Dorsch, a member of the writing staff of "Love, Sidney," and Jerry Maren, who performed in the Wizard of Oz, are interested in the script and will try to sell it to Anson Williams Productions, Carter said.

If Williams, who played Potsie Weber on Happy Days, likes the script, Carter said the script will be pitched to a network and possibly made into a pilot or series.

Carter describes himself as a non-traditional student. "I work full time and I go to school full time," Carter said. "I dropped out of school for four years before coming back to study broadcasting."

Carter, who works in the Dean's Office of Love Library, also has an undergraduate degree in political science.

"After graduation, I was still interested in television, so I went to talk to the broadcasting department," he said. "My graduate studies were specially designed by my advisers, Larry Walklin and Peter Mayeux (UNL broadcasting professors)."

After less than two years in the broadcasting undergraduate program, Carter has finished the course requirements and is working on his professional project and thesis.



Staff Photo by Dave Bentz

Steve Carter

Carter said he was also on the set of "M\*A\*S\*H" last January for a week.

He said he wrote a letter to the executive producer of the show, and about nine months later, he received permission to come to California and visit the set.

"Gary Marshall's secretary called me about two months after I had written him a letter," he said. "Actually, it only took two weeks for him to answer me, because six to eight of the weeks were the off-season (and Marshall was not in his office)."

Carter said he did not send a resume with his letters. He simply told the producers he was a UNL student and what his interests in television were.

## Writer visits California sets, hopes to become a director

He said it took longer for permission to visit the "M\*A\*S\*H" set because students attending the University of Southern California and University of California at Los Angeles have first priority.

However, Carter does not think that the UNL broadcasting program is inferior to those at the California schools.

"At UNL, we have to do both a thesis and a final project, but at USC or UCLA, students have to do one or the other," he said. "It was also an advantage for me not to have to specialize in an area like news or sports. I'm interested in directing and producing, and I was able to get an overall picture of television."

Carter said he is interested in television for a variety of reasons.

"It's fascinating to make someone's thought entertainment for everybody," he said. "It's also the magic of television. It's a lot of fun to take a concept and work with it all the way through."

Another break for Carter came from a script he submitted to Anthony Alda and Robert Alda when they were in Lincoln to perform in "The Front Page" at the Lincoln Community Playhouse.

"I was acquainted with the Aldas from the "M\*A\*S\*H" set, and I talked with him when they were here," Carter said. "I submitted the script to Anthony Alda then, but he was not too excited about it at first."

Carter said the following day, Robert Alda called him and said he was interested in the script. He also offered to have his son Alan Alda write in comments and suggestions for it.

The script, "Easy Sam," is based on a play by UNL theatre arts Professor Joseph Baldwin, Carter said. He said he hopes the script can be used for a 90-minute movie of the week.

Carter said television is difficult to get into because there is no pattern for getting into the business.

"You have to keep beating doors down and have a unique approach to people will recognize you," he said. "It's important to meet people and get contacts along the way. What you do with what you know is also important."

In the future, Carter said, he hopes to get into production and directing.

## Union catering, bakery show profits

Food services in the Nebraska Union are showing a profit except for the Union Square, which is breaking even, and the Harvest Room, which is showing a loss, said Ron Pushcar, director of food services in the Nebraska Union.

Catering has been showing a profit and so has the bakery, but the bakery has always been profitable, Pushcar said.

Exactly how much profit food services are making in the Nebraska Union hasn't been determined because of incomplete reports, he said.

Because of cuts in federal aid, students' spendable income has decreased and they don't spend as much for lunch, Pushcar said. Students are spending less, causing the losses in the Harvest Room, he said. But some of the Harvest Room's losses are also a result of the effect that the Union Square has had on food service.

It was expected that some of the Harvest Room's business would move out when the Union Square opened,

Pushcar said. Students are aware of and prefer the style of service at Union Square, which has become a "viable fast-food operation," he said.

"Union Square has carved out a piece of business that the building (Nebraska Union) needed," Pushcar said.

The Colonial Dining Room has "cut its losses in half" because of the soup and salad bar, he said. A new approach was needed, and creating a soup and salad bar has allowed a reduction in employees, helping to minimize losses, he said.

Pushcar said having a soup and salad bar in the Colonial Dining Room has allowed about eight employee-hours to be cut a day, which is about two part-time people.

Eating habits have changed since the 1940s and 1950s when large meals were eaten at noon, Pushcar said. Today, people aren't eating standard meat and potato lunches and are eating more salads, soup and sandwiches and fewer desserts, he said.

## Police Report

The following calls and complaints were received by UNL police from 7 a.m. Sunday to 7 a.m. Monday.

1:16 p.m. - Person reported tampering with the emergency phone at 14th and W streets.

8:13 p.m. - Trespasser reported on the 12th floor of Pound Hall.

9:05 p.m. - Person observed on campus with an item from the downtown Valentino's Pizza; situation handled without arrest.

10:10 p.m. - Purse reported stolen from the 13th floor of Abel Hall.

6:52 a.m. - Speakers reported stolen from Hamilton Hall.

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