

Soap opera fare keeping popularity

By Connie Casari

"And now folks, we return to today's true-to-life episode of *The Merry-Go-Round of Life*.

"Today, Caren Crass married Dick Dull. That is, she married him after she divorced her third husband, Ken Kold, who was having an affair with Lucy, his secretary.

"Lucy was pregnant, with twins, no less, and Ken was going to marry her until he found out that Lucy's father, Nick Zapitzi, had a contract out on him.

"Tune in tomorrow and see if Caren really loves Dick, if Lucy's Siamese twins really are joined at the earlobe, and if Ken dies a slow death from eating poisoned pasta."

The above paragraphs are, of course, fictional. But happenings similar to those described are depicted daily on national television in the form of soap operas.

Number of viewers growing

More and more viewers have been tuning in to watch and bemoan the fates of the characters which their favorite actors and actresses portray on the screen. Quite often, people watching "soapers" forget the characters are fictional and talk about them as if they were real.

Only housewives used to be accused of parking in front of the television and watching show after show. Now, men watch the shows and, perhaps, the largest following comes from college students.

Students at UNL are no exception.

Senior Shelley Bauer said she used to laugh at the soap operas.

"At first they were funny," Bauer said. "Then I guess I got addicted to them. It's like therapy to laugh at other people's problems. You know that someone has more problems than you do."

"I watch *The Young and the Restless* because there are such neat people playing the parts," said sophomore Julie Whiteside.



Several of the soap operas seem to be favorites among the college crowd. Included in these are *The Young and the Restless*, *Ryan's Hope*, *Search for Tomorrow*, and *General Hospital*. A new evening serial which pokes fun at commercials and soap operas, *Mary Hartman, Mary Hartman*, also is a favorite.

"To me, *Mary Hartman* is funny because it's amusing to see everyone messing around with everyone else," said sophomore Tim Vierregger. "The show comes off comically because it is so ridiculous."

Sophomore John Way said every now and then he sees the show *The Young and the Restless*.

"As first, the show seemed like it could be for real," said Way. "Then, each time I see it, it becomes more ridiculous."

Local 'Trekkies' plan enterprise

A regional *Star Trek* -science fiction-comics group meeting is scheduled for Sept. 11, in the Nebraska Union Centennial Room.

Richard Heim, organizer of the day-long event, said he expects 250 people. Admission is free and the program is open to the public.

The Centennial Room will be partitioned into three smaller rooms, he said. One will be for dealers selling *Star Trek* mementos and science fiction and comic material.

Films including *First Men in the Moon*, *Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea*, *Dimension Five* and the *Star Trek* blooper reel will be shown in the second room.

A third will contain games such as a *Star Trek* photo caption contest. Heim said a contestant may write a caption to a photo and judges will decide the best caption and award the photo to the winner.

Heim said the regional meeting should bring together fans from Nebraska, Iowa, Missouri and Kansas. The UNL *Star Trek* Association is one of the meeting's sponsors.

Models of the Starship Enterprise and slides of the *Star Trek* episodes will be on sale. Heim said many slides are duplicates of the originals. The most popular slides show special effects used on the show.

Slides sell for up to \$1.00 each. Heim said an original slide will sell for more. Comic books also will be sold.

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