

# arts/entertainment

## Viewers find addiction cure in 'General Hospital'

Luke and Laura have made the big time. The dramatic duo from ABC's daytime hit, *General Hospital*, are profiled in this week's *Newsweek* and pictured on its cover. They are, of course, pictured embracing. The two embrace — and kiss and tease and hint — throughout much of the 18-year-old serial. According to *Newsweek*, this is exactly what makes the viewers tune in, and in, and in.

**patti gallagher**

The audience of GH — as addicts supposedly call it — numbers more than 14 million. The show earns about \$1 million each week for ABC. The popularity of the show has made it the top soap in the country.

The attraction: Luke and Laura. Their appeal: Sex. No qualms about it from producer Gloria Monty. Sex is the drawing card, so she keeps on dealing it.

### Mafia front man

For non-devotees, like myself, *Newsweek* supplies the story line. Luke appeared on the GH set three years ago as a former front man for the Mafia and owner of a disco. Laura met Luke at the disco, where he later raped her on the dance floor. From that point on, it's been a game of kiss-but-don't-tell for the two, as they fall in out of love during various escapades.

The story, naturally, has corollaries, but Luke and Laura bring in the fans.

The magic of Luke (Anthony Geary) lies not in his face; his frizzy blond hair and impish face are not much to look at. He is, though, off-beat in both appearance and behavior, giving him that unpredictability we women are supposed to love.

Laura (Genie Francis) is average looking but oh, so young. That, according to producer Monty, turns on the men ("Sweet and innocent" thing) and the younger women ("It could happen to me.")

### Sex, romance, heartbreak

Monty is quite blatant about the show's sexual content. She set out to attract a new teen-age audience when GH ratings were sloping downward. According to Francis, she set those ratings soaring with "a first-love story with real-life sex, romance and heartbreak." Says Francis: "It's every teenager's story."

Says who? Not me, nor many teenagers, nor, I'm sure, many of their parents. At the risk of sounding naive, I hardly think *General Hospital* is the place I'd want my children, teen and pre-teen, to learn about sex. But when they tune into GH, that's almost all they get.

*Newsweek* says researchers at Michigan State University found that in 65 hours of serials, 80 percent of the scenes in which sex was suggested occurred between unmarried lovers.

The researchers also found the soap containing the most sexual activity was *General Hospital*. The conclu-

sion: "Heavy exposure to soaps may warp adolescent sexual attitudes."

### Lovers after rape

Besides the plain old sex in GH, remember Luke and Laura became lovers after he raped her. And remember Luke is the walking image of "macho" when it comes to how a woman should be handled. Neither rape nor machoism are healthy ideals to teach adolescents about men-women relationships.

The youth appeal in *General Hospital* is hardly surprising. Consider other exploits of young sex: the infamous Brooke Shields blue jeans advertisement, the Shields movies "Endless Love" and "The Blue Lagoon"; and even Shields herself.

She's made the pretty, pouting baby face a sexual turn-on and made 14-year-olds think they can behave just like full-grown women.

I've heard the argument that teenagers are more sophisticated these days, that they're ready earlier to see sex on the screen and handle it. But think back five or ten years.

Things haven't changed that much. Sex is sex, and when you're 14 or 15 you giggle and smirk; you don't "handle."

Sure, *General Hospital* is a lure. I can't walk by a set without trying to catch up on the plot. But stop and think about it. It's a sore excuse for entertainment.

Nonetheless, 14 million viewers have made heroes out of a man who raped a young girl and a young girl who fell in love with him over it.

## Fogelberg ticket sales exceeding expectations

Ticket sales for the Dan Fogelberg concert scheduled for Nov. 1 have gone better than expected, but tickets are still available, Martin Wood of the University Program Council said Thursday.

"Just guessing, we've sold about 7,000 tickets," Wood said. "We expected a nice crowd, but they (the tickets) sold a lot faster than I thought they would."

Wood said few \$10.50 tickets were left, and those that remained were mostly single tickets. There are still plenty of the \$9.50 tickets available, which are plank seats without backs, he said.

## Poitier plays Mr. Tibbs in two detective movies

The University Program Council will present the Sidney Poitier Film Festival tonight in the Nebraska Union. The two films, *In the Heat of the Night*, and *They Call Me Mr. Tibbs* are presented as part of the UPC Awareness Week activities.

*In the Heat of the Night* features Poitier as a detective from Philadelphia who gets involved in a murder case with a racist southern policeman, played by Rod Steiger. Lee Grant also stars in the film.

While *In the Heat of the Night* is first and foremost a detective story, it is also one of the first efforts by Hollywood to explore the issue of racism in the south.

*They Call Me Mr. Tibbs* is a sequel to *In the Heat of the Night*. Poitier recreates Virgil Tibbs, the Philadelphia detective, and Tibbs is sent to San Francisco to solve a murder case. Martin Landau and Barbara MacNair co-star in the film.

The film festival will begin at 7 p.m. in the Rostrum of the Nebraska Union, and will end at about 11 p.m. Admission is free.

## Nebraska Union rocks to Ripchords



Photo by Mark Billingsley

The Ripchords performed Thursday afternoon at the Nebraska Union. The concert was presented as part of UPC Awareness Week.

## Two local photographers exhibit work

Two Lincoln photographers are displaying their work in the Loft of the East Union this week.

Steve Traudt and Bruce Wendorff have participated in local area shows and have had their work featured in local galleries. They are active members in the Photographic Society of America and have received international photography awards through this organization. They also judge international competitions.

Wendorff said he first began photographing wildlife as a means to increase realism in his occupation as a taxidermist.

"When I was doing taxidermy, I began photographing birds, squirrels and other wildlife because I needed some more realistic poses for them in my work," he said. "I now don't do taxidermy and have taken up my photography in a more serious nature."

Traudt has a wide variety of interest in his subject matter, but prefers to concentrate on subjects with the graphic qualities of strong pattern, he said. With this recent interest, he photographs landscapes and nature containing these qualities.

"I have gone back to photographing nature and landscapes," he said, "but I am also working on photographing alleys in Lincoln for things like the shadow and contour."

Although Traudt has been involved with photography for 20 years, he said, he didn't become a serious photographer until 1972.

"I had been serious about it in high school, but I didn't do too much during college," he said. "Then I became serious again and it took me four or five years to improve."

"The reason that it has taken me so long to get to the point that I am at now is that photography is difficult to adjust to. I feel that a camera is an extension of your feelings and until you know how to work a camera pretty well, it is hard to accomplish this as a natural thing."

Wendorff said he has judged international competitions of photography for the Photographic Society of America during the last three years in Wichita, Kan. He said there are 600 to 700 entrants from all over the world, each entering three or four color slides.

Three thousand slides are entered in the competition and 500 make it into the final judging for the four or five medals awarded, he said.

"The amount of medals awarded compared to the number of entrants isn't very high, but with the amount of slides in the finals, it isn't as tough a competition as it seems. Making it into the finals makes it worth it."

Wendorff said the competition has three judges.



Photo courtesy of United Artists

Sidney Poitier stars with Rod Steiger and Lee Grant in *In the Heat of the Night*, one of two films presented tonight in the Nebraska Union.