

Lifestyles

April 2, 1992

THE REBEL YELL

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The Young and the Penniless

by Georgia West

Fade in: interior of the Do-Drop-In Dormitory, where Camillia has just caught Drizzle nuzzling Brighton who was there to tell him she still loves him and Cat was nothing but a one-night stand which lasted three years longer than it should have but she couldn't abandon him the way his mother had years before after learning his well-traveled father had a girl on every planet and an interplanetary criminal for a sister.

Ahh, another soap fix to digest for a while.

As King Solomon observed, "There is nothing new under the sun," and this rings true for soaps as well. Beginning with dime novels, anxious and loyal readers faithfully awaited each new episode. From the printed page to the silent screen, to the radio airwaves and now to the TV, weekly or daily serials have hooked people for years. What is it about people with names like Draper or Cricket that makes them so appealing?

Psychologists and sociologists have asked this question for years. Some of their theories may surprise you.

Watching a soap over a period of time is like falling in love. As one watches the characters on screen, a relationship begins to develop. The viewer learns more and more about the soap character each week and is drawn into a one-sided relationship; viewers begin to care about each aspect of the character's life, including birthdays. Soap actors report receiving birthday cards on the character's birthday.

The *Journal of Popular Culture* reports that many viewers are looking for an emotional pay-off from soaps. Pay-offs take many forms. Viewing is supplemented by soap publications which help the viewer understand the character, the character's relationships and subplots within the soap. Soap "gossip" with other fans and soap "trivia" spells a deeper level of commitment and more gratification as well. Soap fans pride themselves on being able to detail the last big

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Nine-year-old prodigy turns on the lights

by William Holt

Hal Stesch, a history of rock teacher for the music department and piano teacher for the Nevada School of the Arts, is teaching a visually impaired (blind) nine-year-old elementary student, Sarah Alawami, how to play the piano. As we entered a Grant Hall classroom for the interview, she promptly located the light switch to turn the lights on for us.

"When I met Sarah, I was totally amazed. The first few lessons were a very emotional experience for me," Stesch said. "The first thing that she said was, 'I can tap dance.'" He said that she always voices questions about her surroundings and is always creative and enthusiastic about the lesson.

Stesch teaches Sarah how to play by recording the lessons onto cassette. He'll play a song and then explain the roles of the left and right hands to her as she listens to the music. He said she has such an ear for music that she can name a note after it is played and can make up her own chord progressions. "She could hear a mouse travelling about the room," he said.

Stesch said she has a photographic memory. She can find anything just by remembering its location. He has become close friends with the family and one night went bowling with Sarah. "She actually beat me in bowling because she can remember the exact position of where the bowling pins are," Stesch said.



Hal Stesch looks on as Sarah Alawami practices

photo by J. P. Morgan

He's found that she likes jazz music. He said she can play and sing the scat solo "How High the Moon" from listening to an Ella Fitzgerald album.

Sarah hunts and pecks at the piano until she finds the right notes when learning the chords, scales and techniques. "She's come a long way," Stesch

said. "It's hard to say how advanced she is because one problem that all blind people have is playing pieces that contain a lot of jumps."

"She actually makes her own songs," Stesch said. "Her imagination astonishes me." She can be found creating simple melodies and chords based

on what she hears as an artist.

Stesch said he tries not to make her stick to a rigid program and allows her to pick and choose as she improves her skills. "I always give her a green light for creativity," he said.

An Indian song she had heard influenced her choice of chords while composing a small piece she calls "Blue Skys."

"She's not handicapped. She's superior," Stesch said. He also said he's never had as good a time teaching as he has had teaching the piano to Sarah. "She has nothing but good things to say about other people and remembers everyone she meets. Her memory frightens me."

Sarah also takes ballet, tap dancing and expressional dance courses. Since she can sing, make songs and play an instrument, Sarah said, "I'd like to get a band and be the singer just like Michael Feinstein." She spelled Michael Feinstein correctly as well.

She attends a regular elementary school and is being mainstreamed into the system so she can become independent.

Her mother said of her daughter, "She's very well rounded and full of enthusiasm." Mrs. Alawami said every parent thinks of his/her child as being special, so it became hard for her to believe that Sarah was gifted. "After enough people say so, you start to have to believe it."

Within diversity lies strength

Greek week '92

by Bret Skiba

Last week all the fraternities and sororities present on the UNLV campus engaged in the 24-th annual celebration of the Greek system. Greek Week is seven days of athletics, entertainment and bonding

within the Greek system geared more toward fun and unity than all-out competition.

"It is a time for everyone to let their hair down and have fun, meet other people along with a little competition which always exists," said Greek advisor JayDe Leonard. It is this lack of competition which caused some Greeks to consid-

er boycotting the games. The bonding amongst the Greeks is evident in the fact that throughout the week, fraternities and sororities team up and compete in the events.

Greek week is not all fun and games however. It takes months of preparation to make sure everything gets under way and runs smoothly. Interfra-

ternity council members Scott Scasney and Dave Canfield, along with Panhellenic council member Vanessa Thill have been organizing this year's event since Christmas break.

Greek Week also works to help the community by staging things like carnival day and

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