

THE BRADYS VS. THE PARTRIDGES

Who wins the rerun battle of the network sitcom families? Julie Beechinor says The Bradys.

I want to be a Brady!

By JULIE BEECHINOR

"Mom? Dad? Remember that new car we just bought? Well, I ACCIDENTALLY took it for a drive with my friends and, well, it spun out of control and wounded a family of four who are probably going to sue us for all we're worth.

"But I learned my lesson. ... Really, I did."

"THAT'S OK."

Come on, you've fantasized about what would it be like to be a Brady

You'd wear a funky Brady perm or a dress that's so short it shows off your butt cheeks, and have an extra-perfect body and complexion.

And if you just happen to get braces that ruin your life, something will come about and make it all pretty darn groovy again.

Where else can you play on that plastic lawn, and see-saw to The Guinness Book of World Records? How else could you manage to go out with the super hunk on the basketball team without straining yourself?

To live in that picture-perfect world, with the just-as-perfect-family is my dream. And, DARN IT, I WILL BE A BRADY! OH, YES, I WILL BE A BRADY.

All I have to say is not to be surprised when the next Brady reunion comes along and I'm in it.

No, not the next MOVIE - which will not star any of the real Bradys. But the reunion, where Jan gets out of drug rehab and they pull Marcia off the streets. I plan on stepping in as the cousin counselor or something ...



We want to hear from you. If you think the Bradys are better, call the **BradyLine** at 472-2111 from a touch-tone phone and punch in 4549 for beautiful Brady music. If you think the Partridges are better, punch in 4546 for their pop sound. The call is free, and we'll publish the results.

"Here's the story, of a single mom named Shirley. ... Oops! Wrong family!"

There were two shows in the 1970s that featured fun-loving families that also sang. But the Partridges were defined by their singing. The Brady kids waited till they grew up and needed the money to buy their parents a silver platter for their anniversary before they started using their voices

Both are in reruns and have had books written about them. So we asked our resident '70s TV expert, Solvay senior Julie Beechinor, to compare the families

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Keith Partridge or Greg Brady. Who had the cooler hair?

Well, Keith, but Greg had Levis. Marcia or Laurie?

Marcia beats her by far for the teen-age male fantasy date

Who is the better family? THE BRADYS. Who is more popular? THE BRADYS. Who was on 16 times a day on three-plus stations at the same time? THE BRADYS

In fact, I didn't even know who the Partridges were until last year. I was watching MTV and saw an ad for a Partridge family marathon.

I thought, "Who are they?" So I watched one episode. That was enough

By far, the Bradys win in any category

You have to admit, the Bradys are a better family.

After all, if Greg can ruin his father's plans just because of his own selfish needs, and IT'S OK, how could you even question?

Yes, I admit, the Partridges had a more realistic family. After all, the kids could actually get in trouble for turning their brother's hair orange.

But the Brady image has lasted throughout the years, with their marriages, reunions and made-for-TV Christmas movies.

The only time you can see the Partridges is on Nickelodeon and occasionally MTV.

As far as teen influence, that's hard to say. They both hit the airwaves with a bang. David Cassidy was all over magazine covers, with Greg (Barry Williams) coming in a close second.

The storylines of the two shows were similar. Both offered up-to-date moral lessons on smoking, cheating, dating and other happy stuff.

Each family had that typical crisis. "What do I do if my hair is out of place?" And each gave the simple "comb it" solution.

A not-so-typical problem would be, like, having Bobby try to get orange dye out of Greg's hair. But we all know the solution to that - go to the beauty salon!



The battle of the books

THE BOOK: "The Partridge Family Album"

AUTHOR: Joey Green, some guy who thinks that The Partridge Family's songs "were cleverly constructed with lyrics ambitiously tackling issues ranging from social injustice to fragile adolescent emotions."



WHAT'S IT ABOUT: How good a family the Partridges are, how they were "better than the Bradys," and "the most influential rock group in recorded history." Yeah, right! I think they were trying to get readers to buy a "Partridges Family Lives" album.

HOW MANY STARS? ★½

WHAT DID I LIKE THE MOST? The covers from teen magazines with David Cassidy.

WHAT MADE YOU WANT TO HEAVE THIS BOOK FAR, FAR AWAY? The author said the Partridges were better than the Bradys. I actually heaved the book across the room when I read that.

YOUR FAVORITE PART: About Danny Bonaduce, because Beavis and Butt-head talk about him.

WHAT WAS THE BIGGEST SURPRISE ABOUT THE BOOK: The fact that there even was a book about the Partridge family, and that they were thought of as competition to the Bradys.

BOOK: "Growing Up Brady: I Was a Teen-age Greg."

AUTHOR: Barry Williams (aka Greg Brady).

WHAT'S IT ABOUT: A lot of people think the Bradys were a perfect family and Barry Williams sets the record straight. And he spills lots of gossip, too.

HOW MANY STARS: ★★★★★ - because it was written by a Brady.

WHAT DID YOU LIKE THE MOST? Hearing about the "sibling" relationships - between Greg and Mom, Greg and Marcia, Jan and Peter, etc. Talk about a cool family.

WHAT MADE YOU WANT TO HEAVE THIS BOOK FAR, FAR AWAY? Nothing in this book made me want to heave it. But I did get upset when I heard that there's going to be another Brady movie, but without any of the original Bradys.

YOUR FAVORITE PART: Hearing about Greg in Hawaii. That's when he talked about his relationship with Marcia, and how he nearly died trying to show off his surfing skills.

WHAT WAS THE BIGGEST SURPRISE? That Bobby and Cindy were doing it in the dog house. They "got married," for gosh sakes.

