QUESTIONS YOU ASK ABOUT . . .

That Decency Pledge

by Joseph A. Kneeland

Q. Is a Catholic bound to find out the classification of a picture before going to see it?

A. Yes. It is a moral principle that when there is a probable danger of formal sin, the safer side must be followed. Since a large number of pictures filmed are objectionable, there is always a probability that a picture is at least partially objectionable and possibly dangerous to one's spiritual welfare.

A person's attitude must be: "I may not see a picture unless I have good reason to believe that it is not harmful to me."

It is the opinion of Father Francis Connell, C.SS.R., head of the moral theology department of the Catholic University of America, that the average person who is in the habit of going to movies frequently and who does not check their moral classifications will eventually be guilty of a grave sin of imprudence.

Q. May Catholics attend Class C (Condemned) pictures?

A. Theologians agree that in practice a person could be charged with mortal sin by going to see even one such picture. "Pictures in this category," the moral theologians state, "are gravely dangerous to practically all persons." Generally they tend to accentuate the obscene and are, therefore, common proximate occasions of sin.

Even if some persons can attend without grave personal danger, their patronage would be ruled out on the score of scandal. This point applies especially to parents, and to persons commonly identified as good, practicing Catholics.

Q. What may be said of attendance at films classed as A-1?

A. An A-1 picture (morally unobjectionable for general patronage) can be attended by all persons safely, apart from very exceptional cases, i.e., it could happen that an individual, especially prone to some form of moral weakness, could not safely see some particular pictures in this classification.

Q. May any adult attend A-II pictures, morally unobjectionable for adults?

A. Considering an adult to be one having the proper qualifications outlined above, the answer would be "yes," except again those persons exceptionally prone to some moral weakness. Persons affected by an A-II picture would be more numerous than those of class A-I.

City High Schools To Produce Comedies, Operetta

PRINCIPALS from the cast of Gilbert and Sullivan's "Patience", to be presented by Nazareth Academy's Perosian Choir and a male chorus, are shown above. From left: (seated) Marie Sidoti, Frank Philippone and Carol Amick; (standing) Don Guentner and Gene Cotter. Performances are scheduled for Wednesday and Thursday, Feb. 16 and 17, at 8:15 p.m.

CATCHING SOME of the more humorous highlights of Aquinas' St. Genesius Club production of "Jenny Kissed Me" are cast members shown above. From left are: (standing) Brian Page, Jan Leonardo and Vince Wissman; (seated) Pat Hogan and Sal LaBella.

REHEARSAL for Our Lady of Mercy High School's production of "Father Knows Best" shows above: (from left) senior Pat Mooney and sophomore Sharon Combs with Aquinas student, George Stewart. The TV adapted comedy will be performed in Mercy's auditorium on Friday evening, Feb. 18.

Aquinas' St. Genesius Club To Stage 'Jenny Kissed Me'

"Jenny Kissed Me," a light-hearted comedy by Jean Kerr, will be presented by the St. Genesius Dramatic Club of Aquinas Institute on Thursday, Feb. 10 and again on Saturday, Feb. 12 in the school auditorium.

The play, which enjoyed a Broadway run, concerns the efforts of "city-folk" to make-over a simple country girl.

Leading roles are played by Vincent Wissman as the priest, Janice Leonardo as the housekeeper, and Pattie Klein as Jenny.

SUPPORTING PARTS are taken by Pat Hogan, Ron Zlotnik, Bob Orlando, Brian Page and Gene Michaud.

Female members of the cast are students of Nazareth Academy and Our Lady of Mercy High School.

Technical production staff is headed by Aquinas senior, Bob Binsack, assisted by Jim Sullivan, Mike Belanger, Bob Baumgartner and Jim Hendel.

Curtain is set to rise at 8 p.m.

The Detective

ALEC GUINNESS currently stars in "The Detective" at Rochester's Little Theatre. Film is based on the famous Father Brown stories of England's renowned convert, G. K. Chesterton.

Films At Museum

Three films will have two showings at Rochester Museum of Arts and Sciences on Sunday afternoon, Feb. 13. The first showing will be at 2:30 p.m. and the second at 3:30 p.m. The program is open to the public at no admission charge or ticket requirement.

Comedy, 'Father Knows Best' Slated At Mercy High School

"Father Knows Best," a comedy in three acts by Kristen Sergel, will be presented by students of Our Lady of Mercy High School on Friday evening, Feb. 18 in the school auditorium.

The play is a stage adaptation of the well-known TV series.

Pat Mooney is cast as Betty; Sharon Combs, Mrs. Anderson; Grace Edenhofer, Ramona; Cathy Wigg, Janie; Marilyn Gerstner, Mrs. Wembley; Elaine Raycroft, Mrs. Jones; Margot Dessauer, Mrs. Woolsey; Sharon Pettis, Perkins; Janet Piletta, Kathy; and Annette Hennekey, Patty.

Aquinas students in the cast include: Dave Bertsch as Mr. Anderson; James Bond as Bud Anderson; George Stewart as Ralph Brinkworth; Max Wickert as Mr. Brinkworth; Jack Trickey as the repair man; and John Foley as the police officer.

James O'Brien, McQuaid Jesuit High School student, will be seen as Bud's friend.

PRODUCTION STAFF for "Father Knows Best" includes: Sheila Stampfli, general chairman; Eileen Popkoski, stage manager; Mary Alice O'Brien, wardrobe; Elizabeth Achenbrenner, properties; Barbara Piscitello, setting; Kathy Meyer, make-up; Lorna Lyng and Annette Young, prompters.

Mercy's orchestra, under the direction of guest conductor, Raymond Hasenauer, M.M., will be heard in a group of selected numbers.

Family Rosary Radio Leaders

Saturday, Feb. 12 — Charles Ross, St. Salome;

Sunday, Feb. 13 — William L. Downs, St. Charles Borromeo;

Monday, Feb. 14 — Samuel Puleo, St. Andrew, accompanied by members of the Legion of Mary;

Tuesday, Feb. 15 — Michael Ferrari, St. Philip Neri;

Wednesday, Feb. 16 — Edward Sanger, St. Mary, accompanied by employees of Haloid Co.;

Thursday, Feb. 17 — Sylvester J. Zicari, St. Ambrose, accompanied by the Rosary and H.N.S. of St. Ambrose;

Friday, Feb. 18 — Joseph S. Brach, St. Stanislaus.

'Mayor Of Town' Listed On WHAM-TV

"Mayor of the Town" starring Thomas Mitchell will be sponsored by the Standard Brewing Company at 8 p.m. on Fridays over Rochester's Channel 5 (WHAM-TV) beginning this week (Friday, Feb. 11).

Mitchell portrays the First Citizen of a grass roots government. "Marilly", his faithful housekeeper is played by Kathleen Freeman and "Butch" by David Saber.

The half hour film, which is an accounting of every day dramas in municipal service, is based on the popular radio program which originally starred Lionel Barrymore.

Washington Films

The Rochester Public Library will offer a special program of George Washington films for girls and boys on Tuesday, Feb. 22 at 10 a.m.

The films will be shown in the auditorium of the Rundel Memorial Building, 115 South Ave.

Mary Stauffer Cast In College Show

Mary R. Stauffer, 32 Oakdale Drive, Rochester, a junior at the College of Mount Saint Vincent, New York City, will take part in a college entertainment, "Through the Hourglass, or A Mountie in Wonderland" on Sunday evening, Feb. 13.

Miss Stauffer, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Howard B. Stauffer, has written part of the script for the entertainment, which will include skits about classes and life in the dorms.

She is a graduate of St. Agnes High School and holds a New York State scholarship.

Theatre Guide

PALACE
The Americano — B
Battle Cry — B

LITTLE
The Detective — A-1

REGENT
The Country Girl — A-2

LOEW'S
Human Desire — B
A Bullet Is Waiting — A-2

Playguide
AUDITORIUM
The Pajama Game — Beg. Feb. 21
(Completely Objectionable — SIGN magazine)
(Bright and breezy factory musical unnecessarily cheapened by touches of shoddy humor. — CATHOLIC NEWS)

Law School

Ponce, P. R. — (NC) — The Catholic University of Puerto Rico will have a school of law by August 1956.

Legion of Decency Listings

CLASS A-1 — Unobjectionable for General Patronage

Abbot and Costello Meet the Keystone Cops
African Adventure
Animal Farm
Athena
Bengal Brigade
Black Knight, The
Black Shield of Falworth, The
Bob Mathias Story, The
Bowery Boys Meet the Monsters
Brigadoon
Cannibal Attack
Cattle Queen of Montana
Crest of the Wave
Detective, The
Devil's Harbor
Dragnet
Drum Beat
Duel in the Jungle
Far Country, The
Hansel and Gretel
High and Dry
High Society
Hunters of the Deep
Invaders From Mars
Jungle Gents
Khyber Patrol
Killer Leopard
Knights of the Round Table
Littlest Outlaw, The
Living It Up
Long Gray Line, The
Malta Story, The
Masterson of Kansas
Operation Manhunt
Outlaw's Son
Quest For a Lost City
Raid, The
Rembrandt
Return From the Sea
Ricochet Romance
Romeo and Juliet
Rookie's Bump
Scotch On the Rocks
Sitting Bull
Smoke Signal
Snow Creature
They Rode West
This Is Cinerama
Three Ring Circus
Tobor, The Great
Treasure of the Ruby Hills
Trouble in the Glen
Trouble In Store
20,000 Leagues Under the Sea
Two Guns and a Badge
Unconquered
Vanishing Prairie, The
Victory at Sea
West of Zanzibar
White Christmas
Wyoming Renegades
Yellow Mountain, The

CLASS A-2 — Unobjectionable for Adults

Aida
Bad Day at Black Rock
Bamboo Prison
Beau Brummel
Beachcomber, The
Betrayed
Black 13
Black Widow
Bread, Love and Dreams
Bridges at Toko-Ri, The
Bullet Is Waiting
Captain Lightfood
Country Girl
Day of Triumph
Dawn at Socorro
Day Out of Life, A
Desiree
Desperado, The
Doctor in the House
Down Three Dark Streets
Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde
Dragonfly Squadron
Drums of Tahiti
Edge of Divorce
Executive Suite
Fire Over Africa
Four Ways Out
Gate of Hell
Good Die Young, The
Green Fire
Heartbreak Ridge
Heart of the Matter, The
Hobson's Choice
Jupiter's Daughter
King Richard and the Crusaders
Last Time I Saw Paris
Law vs Billy the Kid, The
Life in the Balance, A
Lili
Little Kidnappers, The
Mighty Fortress
On the Waterfront
Outcast, The
Outlaw's Daughter, The
Passion
Pirates of Tripoli
Port of Hell
Prince of Players
Princess of the Nile
Private Hell 36
Pushover, The
Rear Window
Return to Treasure Island
Security Risk
Seven Brides for Seven Brothers
Shanghai Story, The
Sign of the Pagan
Silver Chalice
Steel Cage, The
Suddenly
Three Hours to Kill
Tonight's the Night
Turning Point, The
Unchained
Valley of the Kings
Violent Men, The
Voice of Silence
Weak and the Wicked
White Orchid
Woman's World
Young at Heart

CLASS B — Objectionable in Part

About Mrs. Leslie
Act of Love
Adventures of Hajji Baba
Affairs of Messalina
All Ashore
Americano, The
Angel Face
Appointment in Honduras
Bad For Each Other
Bait
Barefoot Contessa
Battle Cry
Beat The Devil
Beauties of the Night
Big Heat
Big Night, The
Bigamist, The
Black Tuesday
Bombs and the Jungle Girl
Bowery to Bagdad
Cangaceiro
Captain Kidd and the Slave Girl
Captain's Paradise, The
Captive Women
Carmen Jones
Carnival Story
City Beneath the Sea
City That Never Sleeps
Danger Zone
Deadline
Decameron Nights
Deep in My Heart
Destry
Devotion
Doomed
Duel In The Sun
Duffy of San Quentin
Earrings of Madame De, The
East of Sumatra
Egyptian, The
Face to Face
Fear and Desire
Flame and the Flesh
Flight to Tangier
Forbidden
Forbidden Games
Forever Female
Four Guns to the Border
From Here to Eternity
Fugitive In Trieste
Gambler from Natchez
Gang Busters
Gentlemen Prefer Blondes
Girls in the Night
Golden Mistress, The
Gone With The Wind
Gorilla At Large
Hell's Half Acre
Hell's Outpost
Hell Raiders of the Deep
Here Come the Girls
Hoodlum, The
Human Desire
Human Jungle
Iron Mistress, The
I, The Jury
Jesse James' Women
Kiss Me Kate
La Lupa
Laughing Anne
Let's Do It Again
Limelight
Little Caesar
Long Wait, The
Lure of the Sila
Man Behind The Gun
Man Between, The
Man Crazy
Man In Hiding
Man in the Attic
Man With My Face, The
Marry Me Again
Mississippi Gambler
Miss Sadie Thompson
Mogambo
Monsoon
Moulin Rouge
Murder Without Tears
Naked Alibi
New Faces
New York Confidential
Niagara
Night Without Sleep
O.K. Nero
One Big Affair
Operation Secret
Other Woman, The
Overcoat, The
Paris Model
Phffft
Playgirl
Problem Girls
Public Enemy
Rendezvous With Tomorrow
Red Garters
Return to Paradise
Rhapsody
River of No Return
Rogue Cop
Rome, 11 o'clock
Sabrina
Saint's Girl Friday, The
Salome
Saracen Blade, The
Sea Devils
Secret of the Incas
Serpent of the Nile
Shamed
Shield for Murder
Sins of Jezebel
Sins of Rome
Siren of Bagdad
Six Bridges to Cross
Slight Case of Larceny, A
So This Is Paris
South Sea Woman
Star Is Born, A
Strange Witness
Susan Slept Here
System, The
Take Me To Town
Tanga-Tika
Target Earth
Tarzan, The Ape Man
This Is My Love
Theodora, Slave Empress
There's No Business Like Show Business
Three Sailors and a Girl
Top Banana
Tormento
Track of the Cat
Twist of Fate
Two Cents Worth of Hope
Underwater
Ugetsu
Veils of Bagdad, The
Volcano
Walking My Baby Back Home
Wedding of Lili Marlene
What Price Innocence
Wicked Woman
Wide Boy
Wild One, The
Woman's Face
Woman They Almost Lynched
Women's Prison

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