



Roy Thinnes, star of "The Invaders." Are we affected by what we watch or, rather, by how much we watch?

# More Harmful Than TV Sex And Violence - TV Sloth

Camden, N.J. — While most criticisms of TV have been aimed at program content, a Catholic weekly here has suggested that the very act of steady television viewing is harmful to Christian life, because of the medium's power to induce inactivity — the capital sin called Sloth.

In fact, editorialized the "Catholic Star Herald," TV-watching probably accounts for much of the resistance among many Catholics to liturgical renewal and Church involvement in social action.

Most TV viewers "have drifted into a passive, half-happy state of just watching," the newspaper observed. "No doubt people can be happy being watchers. The problem is, can they be Christians?"

"We have a theory," the editorial said, "that TV is... responsible for the strength of the Catholic Traditionalist Movement. For the idleness of watching, so enjoyable at home before the TV set, is transferred to the Church and the celebration of Mass.

"By insisting on continuance of the Latin and by eliminating all activities like guitar playing at Mass, the Traditionalists can perpetuate the joy of going to Mass to watch."

Noting that the Traditionalists "shun any involvement in social action," the editorial suggests that this attitude has roots in steady viewing of television.

"The picture tube has mesmerized many of us and made us constant with observing, enjoying or scolding, agreeing or disagreeing — and then doing nothing," the editorial stated. "Violence explodes on the TV screen; hate and vengeance, too. But what is our reaction? We

shrug our shoulders, sink down comfortably into our easy chairs and keep viewing."

Showing how this relates to the Traditionalists, the editorial points out: "Concern for the poor, crying out for peace, organizing to improve a community's housing and to humanize the economy, these things leave them cold. It is much nicer and easier to watch life flicker by. The only time they get agitated is when their comfortable watching of Mass and life is threatened."

In addition to presenting a novel view of TV's impact on viewers, the editorial differed from most commentaries about television in not singling out for attack a specific program or a trend in programming. "For we don't think what we watch is as dangerous," said the editorial, "as the amount of time we spend watching things happen."

The "Star Herald" was thus giving a new application for one of the pet theories of mass-

media philosopher Marshall McLuhan, who maintains that the medium itself has more influence than any message carried by that medium.

In fact, many of the once-taken-for-granted effects of certain kinds of programs are being subjected to scientific study. As a result, typical reactions to certain programs by reviewers and editorialists have been left open to question. The most recent example of this was provided by the January debut of "The Invaders," an ABC-TV series about creatures from outer space who have taken human form in a plot to colonize Earth.

When the AP's television writer, Cynthia Lowry, reviewed it, she stated right off: "The Invaders, ABC's new adventure series, is not likely to bore anyone. But it is likely to send impressionable youngsters off to some scary dreams."

However, at the same time a magazine article on the subject of children's sleep was reported

that a study conducted at the University of Wyoming "throws into question" the connection between TV viewing and nightmares.

For several years, scientists at the university had studied 32 children between the ages of six and 12. "One night just before sleep, the children saw a baseball documentary; on another night they watched a violent Western melodrama," the article noted. "It may come as a surprise to parents that there were more bad dreams on the night of the baseball film than on the night of the Western."

"Did the violent film serve as a kind of emotional catharsis? The scientists thought this was a possibility. Whatever we may ultimately discover about the relationship between events before bedtime and the night's dream, these initial studies sound a note of caution. It is tempting to decide how a child feels or reacts without ever trying to determine the facts." — (Catholic Press Features)

## Family Rosary Radio Leaders

Saturday, April 15 — (Mass to be celebrated) Thomas O'Brien, St. Mary's, Canandaigua.

Sunday, April 16 — Lawrence Burton.

Monday, April 17 — A representative of Knights of St. John.

Tuesday, April 18 — Lawrence Kalb, St. Augustine's accompanied by Catholic Widowed Parent Club.

Wednesday, April 19 — Leo Zeller, Holy Family.

Thursday, April 20 — Ralph D'Andrea, St. Francis of Assisi accompanied by Holy Name Society.

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## 'King and I' To be Staged At Nazareth

Sheila Fullam and Ray Defendorf will play lead roles in "The King and I," one of Rodgers and Hammerstein's music successes when it is presented by the Nazareth Chorus at Nazareth Academy, Lake Ave., Friday, Saturday and Sunday, April 14, 15, and 16 at 8:15 p.m. in the school auditorium.

"The King and I" tells the story of a conflict of ideas between western civilization and oriental culture.

Carrying through the theme are some of what critics have called Rodgers and Hammerstein's most colorful tunes: "Getting to Know You," "Hello Young Lovers," "I Whistle a Happy Tune," "Something Wonderful," "We Kiss in a Shadow," "Shall I Tell You What I Think of You?" and the king's philosophical soliloquy, "Puz- zlement."

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## Glee Club Concert

The annual concert of the 100-voice Nazareth College Glee Club will be presented in the College auditorium April 14 and 15 at 8:15 p.m.

Also appearing on the program will be the St. John Fisher Glee Club, a quartet composed of Fisher students and the Bonadettes, a Nazareth singing group.

Dr. David Fetter will direct the Nazareth Glee Club. Wendell Howard will conduct the St. John Fisher selections.

The program of the Nazareth Glee Club will include: "Lift Thine Eyes" (Mendelssohn); "Rise 'N' Shine" (Youmans); "S Wonderful" (Gershwin); "I Feel Pretty" (Bernstein); "Liebe Schwabb" (Brahms); "The Little Horse" (Copland); "Psalm 150" (Newbury); "Fear My Prayer, O Lord" (Arkhangel'sky - Ehret); "Magnificat" (Pauly); "Miserere Mei" (Lotti).

Program is open to the public. The Nazareth Glee Club will also make appearances at Niagara University on April 23 and St. John Fisher College on April 27.

## Planist Heard In Arts Series

Thomas McInosh, internationally known pianist, gave a recital April 3 at Notre Dame High School in Elmira, as the second event of the Lincoln Center Student Program for the current school year.

The Lincoln Center Repertory Theater presented selections at Notre Dame last month; subsequent performances of the Lincoln Center Student Program will include a ballet demonstration April 28, and a program of chamber music in May.

## Author to Speak

Charles Silberman, author of the book "Crisis in Black and White," will speak at Corn Hill Methodist Church, Rochester, Wednesday, April 19, at 7 p.m., on "black power," community organizations and problems of the unemployed.



"Shall We Dance?" asks the king in one of the songs from the Peruvian musical, "The King and I." Ray Defendorf plays the role of the King of Siam and Sheila Fullam, the English governess who teaches the children of the king.

## Cathedral Organ Concert By Noted French Artist

Andre Marchal, eminent French organist, will play a recital at Sacred Heart Cathedral, Rochester, on Thursday, May 11, 1967, at 8:15 p.m. This concert is co-sponsored by the St. German des Pres, in Paris, Eastman School of Music and the Rochester Chapter, American Guild of Organists.

M. Marchal has toured the United States many times, has taught many American students, and is well-known for his recordings. He was born in 1894 and showed unusual gifts at a very early age. When still a child, his faultless memory enabled him to play on the piano musical works he had merely heard. He first studied at the National Institute for the Blind,

and at the age of seventeen, he entered the organ class at the Paris National Conservatory of Music. For thirty years he was organist at the renowned St. Germain des Pres, in Paris, and in 1945 he became organist at St. Eustache, Paris.

Marchal made his first trip to this country in 1930, and although he traveled alone and knew no English and was unable to see, he immediately established himself in the front rank of artists. He continues to be one of the truly great performers on the "king of instruments."

This concert is open to the public for the donation of \$1.

## Fine Dining Around Town

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