

Entertainment

Films Get Just One NCOMP Rating

"We do not," said Father Patrick Sullivan, S.J., emphasizing the not, "re-rate films. One makes one's bed, one lies in it."

Father Sullivan heads the National Catholic Office for Motion Pictures (NCOMP), once known as the Legion of Decency, with headquarters in New York.

Our conversation by telephone took place this week after this viewer began comparing the list of ratings by NCOMP for current movies with the list of ratings for old movies being shown on Rochester area television. Both are run by the COURIER JOURNAL weekly and if you look at them and compare them, chances are you'll find some discrepancies.

For example, "The Graduate" if you please, has been given an A-4 rating by NCOMP. (Ninety board members, incidentally, saw the film, presented written opinions and then gathered for discussion of it. Both clergy and laymen were represented, with varied backgrounds in education, mass media and other related areas.)

I have not seen the film, but it is apparently the kind of movie which causes those who have seen it to tell all. I have been regaled at least four times with an account of a scene in which a married, older woman seduces a college student. Add nudity and a little blasphemy, they tell me, and I've got the pic-

As I See It

By PAT COSTA

The A-4 rating translates to "morally unobjectionable for adults with reservations."

The same rating goes to "Bonnie and Clyde" as well as being chosen by NCOMP as the "best adult picture of the year." I have not seen "Bonnie and Clyde," either. My reporters tell me it is very gory and somehow artistic gore sets no better with me than run-of-the-mill gore.

I understand that the story of the real life pair has been romanticized for the screen so I am not sure whether "Bonnie" is pictured as the nymphomaniac of the news magazines since have reported she was. But, no matter. The thing is that if you've been a follower of ratings for any period of time by the Legion of Decency, then such ratings for such films may make you pause.

On the other hand if you had checked out the listings faithfully for television you must have noticed that such films as "April in Paris," "The Trouble with Harry," "Boy on a Dolphin," all seen here in recent weeks, were given B ratings by the Legion of Decency when they were released for theater presentation back in the fit-

ties and still carry the same rating which is "Morally objectionable in part for all." By contrast with today's movies these films appear innocuous.

In view of the NCOMP's stand on current film entries should there not be some kind of updating of ratings for the older films?

Father Sullivan thinks not. It has been the unchanging policy of the Legion of Decency and now NCOMP that once a film is rated, it is not changed.

"We see no reason to let the promoters work both sides of the street," the priest said. For example say a picture is given a C or condemned rating. The owners present it as such in the appropriate film houses gaining added revenue from its C category. Then they edit out the offensive parts, ask for a more lenient rating and present it in neighborhood theaters as family fare.

Actually, said the NCOMP official, B rated films made between 1936 and 1948 would not cause too much of a problem for the adult viewer.

Beginning in 1950, he pointed out, Hollywood began to feel the pressure of compe-

lition of television and American films became more and more "adult."

The trouble begins with the showing on television of films made in the 1960s.

It was then that Hollywood went into "high gear" in the matter of "adult entertainment," Father Sullivan said.

But, there is another factor to be considered also in choosing which movies are suitable television fare. Networks and stations both edit movies to work in commercial time and often that which is most offensive is first to go in any questionable film.

Father Sullivan noted that CBS edited 22 minutes, "a lot of film," from B rated "Splendor in the Grass." A good portion of C rated "Never on Sunday" shown by NBC went into the waste basket.

And, Father added, "In the case of 'Sunday' the public 'streak' against such a film being screened on public television was substantial. Even in its cut version there is a lot of protest."

Choosing a film to watch on television then may no longer be simply a matter of checking the NCOMP rating. The thinking adult will have to choose sensibly for himself. But, Father Sullivan said, in the absence of a more up-to-date rating of old movies for viewing by the whole family, the NCOMP rating is still a good guide.

'Catholic Hour' Series Presents Fifth Program

The National Council of Catholic Men will present the fifth program in its current "Catholic Hour-TV" series on "The Changing Church" in America, June 2 (1:30-2:00 p.m., E.D.T.) on NBC.

The second of three discussions with outstanding American Catholic spokesmen presenting their views on important issues confronting the Church, will feature as guests Sister Ann Dunleavy, Instructor of Theology and Psychology at Dumbarton College, Washington, D.C.; Father Robert Hunt, Associate Professor of Theology at the Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C.; and Dr. Eugene Fontinell, Chairman of the Philosophy Dept. of Queens College, New York City. Moderator for this series of three conversations is Mr. James O'Gara, Editor of "Commonweal" and author of the preceding three half-hour color films seen in this series.

Subjects of discussion in this Sunday's "Catholic Hour" will be: clerical celibacy; the decline of vocations to the religious life; changes in convent life and the changing role of religious women in the United States; and the relationship of the Catholic Church to the American experience.

Movies

Here is a list of motion pictures currently playing in Rochester area theaters and the ratings given them by the National Office of Motion Pictures:

- Paramount—"The Double Man" (Family); "Devil in Love" (Objectable in part for all)
- Regent—"Guess Who's Coming to Dinner" (Adults and adolescents)
- Little—"In the Heat of the Night" (Adults)
- Monroe—"Benjamin" (Condemned)
- Coronet—"In Cold Blood" (Adults)
- Warning—"Bonnie and Clyde" (Adults, with reservations); "Luv" (Adults, with reservations)
- Studio 2—"The Graduate" (Adults, with reservations)
- Loew's—"Planet of the Apes" (Adults)
- Stoneridge—"You Only Live Twice" (Adults); "The Good, the Bad and the Ugly" (Objectable in part for all)
- Stutson—"The Dirty Dozen" (Adults, with reservations); "Blow-up" (Condemned)

Catholics to See Series Countering Stereotype of Jew

New York—(RNS)—A closed-circuit television series, designed to counter a negative stereotype of the Jew in literature and religious history, has been announced by the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith and the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of New York.

Scheduled for showing in the fall on the Archdiocesan Instructional Television Network are two series: 5 one-hour programs on the Jew in literature and 6 half-hour programs on the Jews and their religion.

These programs will be seen by nearly 80,000 teachers in the Catholic schools of the archdiocese. More than a quarter of a million parochial school children will ultimately be affected by the inclusion in their curriculum of the material in the tapes and in published resource aids, such as bibliographies, the announcement noted.

TV Movie Ratings

Friday, May 31 - Thursday, June 6

Ratings are those given by the former Legion of Decency, now the National Catholic Office for Motion Pictures, when films were originally shown. A-1: morally unobjectionable for general patronage; A-2: morally unobjectionable for adults and adolescents; A-3: morally unobjectionable for adults; A-4: morally unobjectionable for adults, with reservations; B: morally objectionable in part for all; C: condemned. No Rating: film has not been reviewed by the National Catholic Office for Motion Pictures (formerly the Legion of Decency). N.B. Before A-3 classification was established, A-2 indicated morally unobjectionable for adults.

Movie listings supplied through the courtesy of TV Guide Magazine

| Time | Channel | Movie | Rating |
|--------------------------|---------|---------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 4:00 p.m. | 8 | Gidget | A-3 |
| 9:00 p.m. | 10 | Born Yesterday | B |
| 11:30 p.m. | 10 | Salome | B |
| 11:35 p.m. | 10 | Istanbul | A-2 |
| Saturday, June 1 | | | |
| 2:00 p.m. | 13 | Constantine and the Cross | A-1 |
| 2:00 p.m. | 10 | Twelve to the Moon | A-1 |
| 5:45 p.m. | 10 | War Arrow | A-1 |
| 9:00 p.m. | 8 | That Touch of Mnk | B |
| 11:00 p.m. | 10 | Hold Back the Night | A-2 |
| 11:15 p.m. | 8 | Intent to Kill | B |
| 11:15 p.m. | 13 | My Man Godfrey | A-2 |
| Sunday, June 2 | | | |
| 2:00 p.m. | 8 | The Exile | A-1 |
| 2:00 p.m. | 13 | The Three Stooges in Orbit | A-1 |
| 9:00 p.m. | 13 | Walk on the Wild Side | A-4 |
| 11:15 p.m. | 10 | Tropic Zone | A-2 |
| 11:15 p.m. | 13 | Elmer the Great | No Rating Available |
| Monday, June 3 | | | |
| 4:00 p.m. | 8 | Operation Pacific | B |
| 9:00 p.m. | 13 | Gidget Goes Hawaiian | A-2 |
| 12:30 a.m. | 13 | Santa Fe Stampede | A-1 |
| Tuesday, June 4 | | | |
| 4:00 p.m. | 8 | She's Working Her Way Through College | B |
| 9:00 p.m. | 8 | Bus Riley's Back in Town | A-3 |
| 12:00 a.m. | 13 | Money, Women, and Guns | A-1 |
| Wednesday, June 5 | | | |
| 4:00 p.m. | 8 | Calamity Jane | A-1 |
| 11:30 p.m. | 13 | My Pal Gus | B |
| Thursday, June 6 | | | |
| 4:00 p.m. | 8 | The Iron Mistress | B |
| 9:00 p.m. | 10 | Portrait of a Mobster | B |
| 10:30 p.m. | 13 | Inside the Mafia | B |

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