

Mass Media Violence on Way Out?

Catholic Press Features

Hollywood — Violence in films and television — which letters, sermons, speeches and articles could not stop — is being cut back sharply in the wake of the assassination of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, and, as one report put it, "some of it might just be lasting."

The TV networks, while still arguing that there is no substantial evidence connecting video violence with real-life violence, have been swift to react to the nation's current mood: substituting series episodes and switching network movies when they have been too heavy on violence, and promising to either delete or greatly lessen violence in future scripts.

In the film industry, a group of screenwriters and actors have pledged to never again associate themselves with films that would feature violence for its own sake.

Jerry Paris, formerly director of "The Dick Van Dyke Show" on TV but now a film



End of Era?

director, launched the anti-violence drive by running a "Pledge of Conscience" ad in Hollywood trade papers, and in several days the ad was appearing with the added signatures of such persons as Jack Lemmon, Richard Boone, director William Wyler and Jack Valenti, president of the Motion Picture Association of America.

The late President Kennedy once scheduled a meeting with members of the Directors Guild of America to discuss the problem of excessive violence in films, said Mr. Paris, but the meeting

was scheduled for November 29, 1963.

"It has taken us almost five years and his brother's own assassination to get us to do anything about it," Paris said.

But the most immediate and sweeping cutbacks in violence are taking place in the TV industry.

These range from expected changes of titles—"The Guns of Will Sonnett" to, simply, "Will Sonnett"—to the announcement that the producers of "Get Smart," the spy satire, are omitting all scenes with violence from next season's scripts.

At NBC, a network programming policy that permitted "violence only where justified" was changed to read "violence only where essential."

In addition, the NBC network has promised that beginning this fall, all violence will be eliminated from preview scenes of upcoming episodes. Until now, scenes with the most violence have been used to lure viewers into watching the following week's episode of a series.

A recent discussion of behavioral scientists, following an assassination of Sen. Kennedy, resulted in an agreement that no direct relation could be shown between mass-media violence and the assassinations of the Kennedy brothers and Martin Luther King Jr. But it was agreed that the Saturday-morning deluge of cartoons—often sponsored by toy-makers trying to sell simulated weapons to children—the Westerns and the police and spy dramas and the nightly newscasts from Vietnam were conditioning the mass audience to become reconciled to violence as an acceptable means of settling differences.

"True, our national history is steeped in violence," commented one TV critic, "but given that truth, is there any reason to promulgate it, reinforce it relentlessly with modern, refined methods the Salem witchburners and the frontier Indian-slayers never dreamed possible? How can a parent impress a child with the sanctity of life—all life—when around him on the small screen life is valueless?"

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** — "Chubasco" (no "Bandelero" (no rating available))
- Regent** — "Green Berets" (rating unavailable)
- Cinema** — "Rosemary's Baby" (Condemned)
- Little** — "Elvira Madigan" (Adults)
- Monroe and Coronet** — "Theresa and Isabelle" (Condemned)
- Riviera** — "Dr. Doolittle" (Family)
- Studio 2** — "The Graduate" (Adults, with reservations)
- Loew's** — "The Detective" (Objectionable in part for all)
- Stoneridge** — "The Thomas Crown Affair" (Objectionable in part for all)
- Sturton** — "Private Navy of Sgt. Farrell" (Adults, adolescents)
- Panorama** — "The Odd Couple" (Adults)
- Fine Arts** — "The Female" (rating unavailable)
- Towne** — "Yours, Mine and Ours" (Family)
- Lyell** — "The Fox" (Condemned); "The Family Way" (Adults, with reservations)
- Sturton** — "The One and Only Original Genuine Family Band" (Family)
- Waring** — "Thoroughly Modern Millie" (Family)

As I See It

In This Corner, a Nitpicker

By PAT COSTA

Finding little to laugh at on television these days? Well you're not alone. Genuinely funny situations, plots or even lines are rare at any time of the year on TV. With the advent of summer and its repeats you either believe that a pelican falling in love with the flying Nun is hilarious or you look for your amusement elsewhere.

Confirmed TV addicts at our house, we find it hard to give up facing the set night after night even when the mercury hits the 80's. And since I particularly like to spend the hours before bed reading or watching something light I have found a partial solution to the scarcity of humor. I sit and nitpick. And nitpick as only a woman can who knows full well that there are at least two dozen better things she could be doing with her time than sitting cross-legged before an immovable object night after night.

The latest rerun of NYPD proved good material for my scheme of finding froth where I can. The star of the series, a good looking lad named Frank Converse, was in trouble. He'd gone to investigate a complaint of noise made by one neighbor about another and found himself being charged with forcing his attention on the woman being complained about. For the remainder of the 30-minute

program he and the entire New York City Police Department couldn't figure out how to prove the charge was a lie until the last 60 second when he conveniently remembered the words of the original complaint and closed the case nice and tidy like. We had kept prompting him throughout to go back and see her but unfortunately he couldn't hear us.

A local weatherman has the same trouble of not hearing us when we try to help him out from time to time.

The fellow in question, a substitute who certainly can be forgiven for not knowing all the cities in the state and their locations, does beautifully until he gets down to the unidentified dot on the map that represents Hornell.

Urbane as any national newscaster and with the complete poise he smiles a little, pauses, sometimes adds and extremely witty remark. By then the cameraman usually fills him in. One night the cameraman was a substitute. I seldom miss a weather show any more.

One of my most rewarding nitpicking moments happened sometime ago when a late movie announcer taped his remarks to be run during the

innumerable intermissions in the film. Trouble was whoever was in charge of putting movie and remarks together didn't quite get the idea. Thus what we saw at home was a well-informed reviewer talking glibly about one set of characters while the film was dealing with a completely different set. Nobody seemed to catch it other than myself and probably a few other thousand people who were channeled in that night.

TV Movie Ratings

Friday, July 5 - Thursday, July 11

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 objectionable for adults and adolescents; A-3: morally unobjectionable for adults; A-4: morally unobjectionable 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
Friday, July 5			
4:00 p.m.	8	Buchanan Rides Alone	A-1
9:00 p.m.	10	Espresso Bongo	C
11:30 p.m.	13	Touch of Evil	A-3
11:40 p.m.	10	Brave Bulls	A-2
Saturday, July 6			
2:00 p.m.	10	Terror of Black Mask	No Rating Available
2:00 p.m.	13	Invaders from Mars	A-1
6:05 p.m.	10	Fort Ti	A-2
9:00 p.m.	8	A Hard Day's Night	A-1
11:00 p.m.	8	Breakout	No Rating Available
11:15 p.m.	8	Counterfeit Plan	A-2
11:15 p.m.	13	Mister Corey	B
Sunday, July 7			
2:00 p.m.	8	Illegal	A-2
2:00 p.m.	13	The Sword of Ali Baba	A-2
9:00 p.m.	13	Welcome to Hard Times	No Rating Available
11:15 p.m.	10	The Big Hangover	A-2
11:15 p.m.	13	Captured!	No Rating Available
Monday, July 8			
4:00 p.m.	8	The Camp on Blood Island	A-2
Tuesday, July 9			
4:00 p.m.	8	Nightfall	A-2
11:30 p.m.	13	Posse from Hell	A-1
Wednesday, July 10			
4:00 p.m.	8	Adventures of Gallant Bess	A-1
9:00 p.m.	10	Hot Rods to Hell	No Rating Available
11:30 p.m.	13	Crooks Anonymous	A-3
Thursday, July 11			
4:00 p.m.	8	Comanche Station	A-1
9:00 p.m.	10	The Hellions	A-2
11:30 p.m.	13	Man Afraid	A-1

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