

As I See It

Walter Cronkite: Newsman's Newsman

By PAT COSTA

With one comment behind us and another just ahead of us, America is on its way to becoming supersaturated with the particular style of politics as practiced at these events.

For most of us one would imagine, there is one element that keeps the conventions from being completely unpalatable and that is the superstar of these shows.

And that star is not the presidential candidate who is finally chosen, but rather the anchorman of cable network who often under extreme duress lifts the proceedings out of the realm of banalities into some semblance of sanity.

While there are undoubtedly those viewers who like to twist the channel selector back and forth during the conventions most of us probably hit upon a favorite news-

man and stick with him.

In our living room it is Walter Cronkite who gets the nod.

There are many reasons for this but primarily it is because Walter Cronkite has probity. It is well known that it is not only wise, but in this day and age an utmost necessity not to believe everything you are told.

Yet such is the aura of dedication to truth and reality about this man—possibly only the result of a successful campaign by the CBS image makers—that when Cronkite speaks, one listens.

It is not that I don't think he is capable of making mistakes. Loyal viewers surely have seen him caught in the middle of erroneous reports—but not willfully nor for the reason that he failed to do his homework.

In addition to being well informed, he possesses other skills and qualities that should be prerequisites for any announcer whether the news is being broadcast nationally or locally. Most of them revolve around self-restraint.

He does not editorialize. He does not sensationalize. He does not use slang. He does not get cute or coy. He does not insert personal remarks about acquaintances. He does not show visible signs of self-importance. He does not patronize. He does not joke with his colleagues off camera.

He is in every sense a professional, one worthy of the name newsman, a tribute which may seem slight enough but one that is cherished by those in the news field.

But, say those admirers of ABC's Keith McBee or NBC's

Huntley and Brinkley team, the above attributes certainly apply to them as much as they do to Cronkite.

Undoubtedly so. In Rochester, however, we are privileged to watch and listen to McBee two nights a week—Saturdays and Sundays at 11 p.m. It is difficult to become a loyal fan of any newscaster on that basis.

As for Huntley and Brinkley, some of us like our urbanity in small doses. After catching the urbane Edwin Newman or the urbane Nancy Dickerson on daytime TV or any one of several other urbane NBC reporters on radio, one gets a terrible urge to try for Wheeling, West Virginia.

A little polish can go a long way.

Movies

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

Panorama—"Azzio" (rating unavailable); "Delt Rise The Bridge, Lower The River" (Adults and adolescents).

Regent—"Petulu" (Adults)

Cinema—"Rosemary's Baby" (Condemned)

Little—"What's So Bad About Feeling Good?" (Adults)

Monroe—"War and Peace" (Family)

Riviera—"Dr. Dolittle" (Family)

Studio 2—"The Graduate" (Adults, with reservations)

Loew's—"Prudence and the Pill" (Condemned)

Stoneridge—"The Thomas Crown Affair" (Objectious in part for all)

Panorama—"The Odd Couple" (Adults)

Towne—"Around the World in 80 Days" (Family)

Waring—"Hammerhead" (Objectious in part for all)

Stalson—"Yours, Mine and Ours" (Family)

Fine Arts—"The Detective" (Objectious in part for all)

Lyell—"King Kong Escapes" (Family)

Books

Poverty of Spirit—by Johannes Baptist Metz — (Newman; \$3.50)—The concept of this title is an elusive one which has often been defined in accordance with the needs of the definer rather than with the norms of ascetic theology. This small book, which is really a long essay, goes a long way toward dispelling that sometimes intentional ambiguity. Metz' meaning of poverty of the spirit is an acknowledgment of man's total dependence upon his creator for everything that he is and has; it is a realistic humility, based upon self-knowledge and upon a recognition of man's place in the universe. The author develops his theme simply, convincingly, and often charmingly—so much so that his book may well become a minor classic of modern spirituality. It is superior material for meditation of spiritual reading and is as suitable for Protestants as for Catholics.

Spirit Versus Structure — by Jaroslav Pelikan — (Harper; \$4.95) — This slender volume concentrates upon writings of Martin Luther in which the question of church structure arises. In his time, the structures supposed to serve as vehicles of the Spirit had become the chief obstacle to the Spirit. Luther deals with this problem in terms of the priesthood, monasticism, infant baptism, church law and the sacraments. But the crisis was also an internal one and a personal one for the Reformer since

these structures were the ones in which Luther was deeply involved as a man, Christian and priest. The author brings a fresh interpretation to Luther's work through this point of view.

The Man and the Woman — by John J. Evey and Sister Maureen O'Keefe — (Sheed; \$3.95) — "The Psychology of Human Love" is offered by this famous pair of speakers and writers. Not so much a psychological treatise, it is more a direct descendant of the Ciceronian tracts "De Amicitia," that were so popular from Roman and Greek antiquity to the time of Emerson.

Hey, Mrs. McGee

Wednesday is Prince Spaghetti Day... that leaves oodles of time for noodles.

Prince Egg Noodles

A POP PRODUCT

TV Movie Ratings

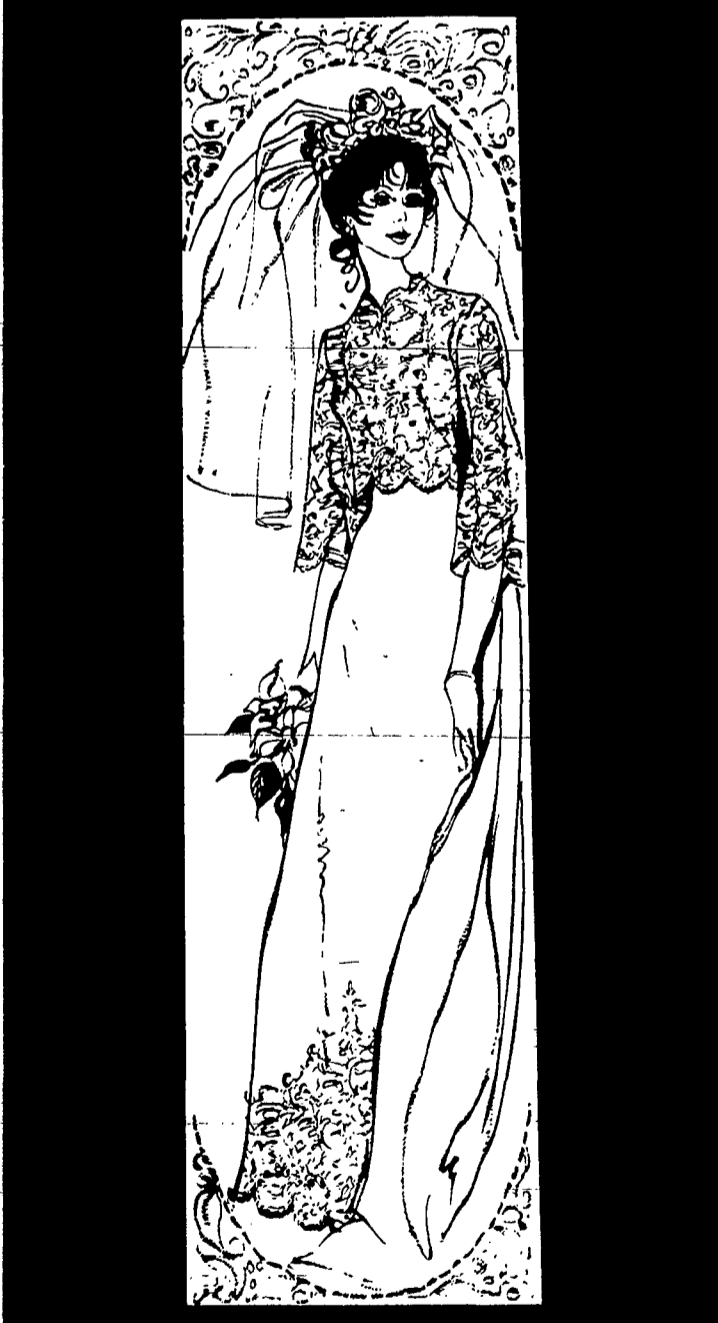
Friday, Aug. 23 thru Thursday, Aug. 29

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.E. 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
9:00 p.m.	10	Pat and Mike	A-1
11:30 p.m.	13	A Child is Waiting	A-1
Saturday, August 24			
2:00 p.m.	10	The Trojan War	A-1
2:00 p.m.	13	Mothra	A-1
3:30 p.m.	13	Battle in Outer Space	A-1
5:35 p.m.	10	Green Fire	A-2
9:00 p.m.	8	Cinderella	A-1
11:15 p.m.	13	Oh, Men Oh, Women	A-2
12:30 p.m.	10	Topedo Alley	A-2
Sunday, August 25			
2:00 p.m.	8	The Moonraker	Not Listed
3:30 p.m.	13	Sandokan Against Leopards of Sarawak	A-1
9:00 p.m.	13	Casnova's Big Night	A-2
11:15 p.m.	10	Sadria	A-1
11:30 p.m.	13	Dr. Socrates	Not Listed
Monday, August 26			
4:00 p.m.	8	Up the Creek	Not Listed
7:30 p.m.	13	A Time to Love, a Time to Die	Not Listed
Tuesday, August 27			
4:00 p.m.	8	The Raid	A-1
11:30 p.m.	8	Mother Didn't Tell Me	A-2
Wednesday, August 28			
4:00 p.m.	8	The Green-Eyed Blonde	A-2
7:30 p.m.	13	Blue Hawaii	A-1
11:30 p.m.	13	Dentist in the Chair	A-2
Thursday, August 29			
4:00 p.m.	8	Domino Kid	B
11:30 p.m.	13	On the Beat	A-3

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expenses—"In other words," the NCCM notes, "for an expenditure of \$175,000 by the Church is receiving in return a value of \$7 million." Walsh says: "Our responsibility is to develop the program including a securing of talent, whether in radio or television. With NBC television, for instance, we are responsible for the script and talent and any costs involving it. They provide the time, facilities and the personnel—the studio costs. In radio, the NCCM office develops 52 programs a year on NBC for the Catholic Hour, and 52 weeks on ABC for the Christian in Action program. CBS dropped its religious programming about two years ago.



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