

The Unconventional Eye of the TV Camera

By PAT COSTA

Besides nominating a presidential candidate, constructing a platform and honoring the fallen sons of its party, the Democratic National Convention taught the nation several good lessons, none of which was to its own credit.

The first, and not necessarily the most important but certainly the most conspicuous of the lessons, was that the eye of the television camera is absolutely devastating.

If the practiced politicians of that convention once knew the extent to which the electronic eye could be unfeeling, harsh and blatantly truthful, they appeared to have forgotten it.

This forgetfulness cost them prestige, respect and no little honor.

Early in the proceedings a nation watched as the convention's security forces "took care of" at least two newsmen and one delegate in their own inimitable style.

But even this hardly prepared the viewer for the sights and sounds afforded by Chicago Mayor Richard Daley himself. Interest first began building up as the mayor belligerently allowed



Chicago Mayor Richard Daley... the camera's cold view

himself to be interviewed.

Then as the films of the chaos and violence that were taking place in Chicago streets finally reached the television screens, the mayor clammed up.

By then, however, the cameras had found the mayor's face so interesting that they refused to be diverted elsewhere and the need for a microphone was negligible.

Sitting there as he was directly before the podium, he was not visible to newsmen, his own group or the other

delegates — merely to the camera and thus the nation.

And so it was that only the nation saw his react to Sen. Abraham Ribicoff's charges. Not a word could be heard in the bedlam, but there for the nation and the world to see was an obviously distressed man, face contorted, body taut. And each viewer became a lip reader as the mouth of this convention planner yelled "go on back home" to Ribicoff.

Not even the interview that Daley gave the next evening to Walter Cronkite in the

quiet of the latter's sound proof booth could remove that first image from the mind.

For men of Daley's temperament, the camera is no friend. For those who have been kept in the dark too much and too long it has become a piercing light.

A second lesson taught by the week-long event was that of all Democratic methods of nominating a presidential candidate, a convention as witnessed, may be one of the worst. TV again was responsible for making the lesson so graphic.

Without even taking into consideration the fact that there are those who can unethically control admission into the polling place, can unethically control floor microphones and unethically gavel down those who may have a right to speak, there is another even more important factor.

And that is emotion loosed without tempering it with logic. At one point in that convention, there is a very distinct possibility that 36-year-old Ted Kennedy could have entered the hall and without proper qualifications could have swayed the delegates to frenzied support. It is to his everlasting credit that he scrupled not to do so. It is no credit to the convention that he could easily have achieved a prime step to the highest honor, the most exacting job in the world, by exploiting the memory of two slain brothers.

When condition for such a situation exists, it is time for a change.

Sex Education Film Not for Commercial Showing -- NCOMP

New York — (RNS) — The National Catholic Office for Motion Pictures believes that the commercial movie house is not the place for sex education films.

This observation was made by the NCOMP as it issued the rating for "Helga," a film which is scheduled to be shown in theaters throughout the country this fall.

In objecting to the presentation of the motion picture in commercial houses, NCOMP said:

"Educational films of this type are ideally suited for exhibition in classrooms or other controlled environments where their subject matter may be placed in a proper moral and social context. It is unfortunate that 'Helga' will be shown in movie theaters where at present no legal distinction is made in regard to the age of viewers. Parents especially should be aware of this fact when the film plays in their locality."

"It should be obvious," the NCOMP continued, "that motion picture theaters, traditionally linked with entertainment, are not the proper place to carry on the important yet delicate task of sex education."

U.S. Children's Films Lagging

Catholic Press Features

New York — If European countries should ever want to offer America some foreign aid, they would do well to start with some tips on how they make so many excellent children's films. The United States, despite Walt Disney, continues to be seriously underdeveloped in the area.

International Children's Film Festivals have consistently been dominated by countries other than the U.S. and — interestingly — more often than not they are Eastern European countries like Poland, Hungary, Yugoslavia, Rumania and Czechoslovakia.

The latest import getting rave reviews is a Yugoslav-Czech co-production titled "The Seventh Continent," whose main characters are "the yellow girl," "the white boy" and "the black boy" who discover a magical island where they are joined by hundreds of children from throughout the world.

Being re-released to theaters — although most of its U.S. showings have been before school and church groups — is the Czech "Do You Keep a Lion at Home?," a fantasy about two young brothers who wander the streets and undergrounds of Prague for a day, undoing wicked spells or helping a convention of ghouls better organize their haunting activities.

At Teheran's "International Festival of Films for Children" last December, 28 countries entered 60 films and the United States' three entries drew blanks, not even gaining an honorable mention, while Russia, the satellite countries — France, Canada, England, Japan and Norway — were marching off with the honors.

The National Catholic Office for Motion Pictures is doing whatever it can to promote more children's films, regardless of the country of origin. The July issue of its official "Catholic Film Newsletter" featured a cover treatment of "Heidi," an Austrian classic which is being distributed in the United States by Warner Brothers-7 Arts. The fact that this is one more version of "Heidi," said NCOMP, "underlines the very fact there is too little imagination at work toward production of acceptable children's entertainment."

The August issue of the "Catholic Film Newsletter" greets the Screen Classics' version of the "best of the new films" and one "full of imaginative fantasy that both the young and their parents will find intriguing. It is not by any means the usual 'formula' brand of family entertainment but will delight its audience with the care of its special-effects work and the surprises and humor of its script."

The special effects include fantasy sequences in which the three children — black, yellow and white — summon children from an adult world that has no time or interest for children. The children come to the island floating on chairs, beds, barrels and assorted toys and spend most of their time there listening to the music produced by sea shells.

Their disappearance causes an international crisis, topped off by a spoof of the United Nations when an "International Commission for Lost Children" gets hopelessly entangled in parliamentary gobbledegook.

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:

Paramount—"Barefoot in the Park" (Adults, adolescents); "Villa Rides" (Objectable in part for all).

Regent—"Petula" (Adults)

Cinema—"Rosemary's Baby" (Condemned)

Waring—"With Six You Get Eggroll" (Adults, adolescents).

Monroe—"War and Peace" (Family)

Riviera—"Dr. Dolittle" (Family)

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

Lee's—"The Secret Life of an American Wife" (Objectable in part for all).

Stoneridge—"Hang 'Em High" (Adults).

Panorama—"The Odd Couple" (Adults)

Towse—"Gone With The Wind" (Adults, adolescents).

Sturton—"Dark of the Sun" (Objectable in part for all).

Fine Arts—"Interlude" (Adults).

Little—"The Swimmer" (no rating).

Lyell—"A Man and a Woman" (Adults)

Not listed

A-2

A-2

A-1

A-1

A-2

B

A-1

B

A-1

A-1

A-1

A-1

A-1

A-1

A-1

A-1

A-1

A-1

A-1

A-1

TV Movie Ratings

Friday, Sept. 6 thru Thursday, Sept. 12

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

Friday, Sept. 6

Time	Channel	Movie	Rating
4:00 p.m.	8	Miracle In the Rain	A-2
9:00 p.m.	10	The Last Hurrah	A-2
11:30 p.m.	13	Vera Cruz	B
12:00 a.m.	10	Phitt	B

Saturday, Sept. 7

Time	Channel	Movie	Rating
2:00 p.m.	10	Lion of St. Mark	Not listed
2:00 p.m.	13	The Land Unknown	A-2
3:30 p.m.	13	The 27th Day	A-2
6:05 p.m.	10	Taza, Son of Chochise	A-1
11:15 p.m.	13	Tunes of Glory	A-1
12:00 a.m.	8	14 Hours	A-2
12:00 a.m.	10	Solid Gold Cadillac	A-2

Sunday, Sept. 8

Time	Channel	Movie	Rating
2:00 p.m.	13	Safe at Home	A-1
5:35 p.m.	10	The Women in Green	A-1
9:00 p.m.	13	Under the Yum Yum Tree	A-4
11:15 p.m.	10	Undertow	A-2
11:15 p.m.	13	Wake of the Red Witch	B

Monday, Sept. 9

Time	Channel	Movie	Rating
4:00 p.m.	8	The Wrong Man	A-1
9:00 p.m.	13	Cry for Happy	B

Tuesday, Sept. 10

Time	Channel	Movie	Rating
4:00 p.m.	8	The Goddess	A-3
		Hemingway's	
8:00 p.m.	8	Adventures of a Young Man	Not listed
11:30 p.m.	13	The Wayward Bus	B

Wednesday, Sept. 11

Time	Channel	Movie	Rating
4:00 p.m.	8	Let No Man Write My Epitaph	A-3
9:00 p.m.	13	Love with the Proper Stranger	A-3
11:30 p.m.	13	Nearly a Nasty Accident	A-1

Thursday, Sept. 12

Time	Channel	Movie	Rating
4:00 p.m.	8	It Happened to Jane	A-1
9:00 p.m.	10	Act One	A-2
11:30 p.m.	13	Pirates of Blood River	A-2

Elmira Chaplain Gets National Post

Elmira — Father James P. Collins, chaplain of Elmira Reformatory, was elected second vicepresident of the American Correctional Chaplains Association at the annual Congress of the association in San Francisco this week.



FATHER COLLINS

Father Collins, for the past nine years chaplain of the State Reformatory here, has been active in the interfaith activities of various chaplains' organizations. Besides holding office in the American Association, he is president of the New York State Department of Correction Chaplains and a vice president of the national Catholic Correctional Chaplains Association.

Catholic Movie Awarded Prize

Atlanta—(RNS)—A film produced by the National Catholic Educational Association has won the grand prize of the first annual Association Film Festival here. "Toward Tomorrow," which was entered in the education and training category, shows the modern techniques used in Catholic schools throughout the U.S. such as tape recordings for language training, computers for curriculum planning, and methods for group dynamics.

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