

As I See It

Soap Operas: An Unclean Feeling

By PAT COSTA

There was a time when I told myself that it was superior intellect that kept me from watching and enjoying soap operas.

But, that reasoning, as comforting as it was, failed to hold when I realized that I've watched the same Grade B movie on the late night shows as many as five times and laughed, cried and otherwise reacted to it again and again.

The truth about the suders and me came a week or so ago as I watched a few minutes of one of CBS' longest soaps, "The Secret Storm."

A child, as the script called for, was being accidentally drowned.

A couple of minutes watching and I had to turn it off. There are some who find it

hard to get their kicks from tragedy, violence, sorrow, sor-didness, deceit, sickness and the other ills of the world even when they are made believe ills as they are in this long running story.

And just how sad and sorry a story it is I failed to realize until 15-year-old Judy offered to fill me in on this particular "entertainment" vehicle seen on the network with its sister soaps five days a week.

Below are some of the major characters and their biographies, possibly the most humorous group of people ever found in one show:

PETER AMES — one time chief character and patriarch of the distinguished Ames family. Recently killed off in Paris at a business convention for the Herald Newspaper which he owned. Married three times. First wife (mother of all three children) died. His second wife Myra, di-

vorced him. His third is Valerie Hill Ames.

VALERIE: Has two children. Val has been accused of murder with a letter opener and adultery with a young writer employed by her late husband.

SUSAN: Peter's oldest was married to Alan Dunbar. Dunbar became involved with another woman. Susan became an alcoholic, fell in love with a dope pusher who cursed her drink problem but was killed himself for squealing to the police. Susan and Alan were reunited. Alan went to Asia on some kind of mission and was killed in action. Susan now married to recently fired reporter.

JERRY: Peter's son. First wife Kate killed in a barroom fight. Remarried to artist Hope.

AMY: Baby of Ames family. Became involved with her col-

lege history professor and became pregnant. But married her father's rival's son. Separated after another woman gets her husband. Now takes up with Paul.

BOB HILL: Divorces wife and four children. Takes up first with Susan, then Belle Clemens who learned she has less than a year to live and comes home to take care of her illegitimate child.

It was this child who was being written out of the script via the drowning when I happened to tune in.

There is more, but frankly I've neither the heart nor the stomach to relate it.

Suffice it to say that "Secret Storm" is one of the most popular series on daytime television. But, if it is true that we are what we watch just as we are what we read then just maybe we, as a nation of viewers, are in trouble.

Movies Bishops Bar 'Catholic Hour' Series

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 — "The Conqueror Worm" (no rating); "The Savage Seven" (condemned).

Regent — "Rachel, Rachel" (Adults).

Cinema — "Rosemary's Baby" (Condemned).

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

Morroe — "War and Peace" (Family).

Riviera — "Dr. Dolittle" (Family).

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

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

Sheridge — "Hang 'Em High" (Adults).

Panorama — "The Odd Couple" (Adults).

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

Sutton — "Around the World in 80 Days" (general).

Fine Arts — "Interlude" (Adults).

Little — "The Swimmer" (Adults).

Lyle — "A Man and a Woman" (Adults).

Washington, D.C. — (RNS) — The National Conference of Catholic Bishops ordered the cancellation of four radio broadcasts of The Catholic Hour featuring a theologian involved in controversy over the papal ban on birth control.

Father Daniel Maguire, assistant professor of moral theology at the Catholic University of America, was to have given four radio talks on "The New Morality."

Orders to cancel the program were issued by Bishop Joseph L. Bernardin, general secretary of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops and Martin Work, executive director of the National Council of Catholic Men (NCCM) which produces the program in cooperation with the National Broadcasting Company.

Father Maguire was one of the original 87 theologians who signed a statement holding that "spouses may reasonably decide according to their consciences" to use artificial contraceptives. The statement has since been endorsed by more than 600 Catholic theologians.

Work, in a statement announcing the cancellation said, "The script failed to secure the approval of our theological advisers and, therefore, following our long standing policy, the series is cancelled."

Bishop Bernardin said in a statement, "When I saw the

topics of the talks and realized that they were related to the current controversial publicity surrounding the publication of the recent encyclical, Of Human Life, I asked to see the scripts."

"It was my responsibility to do so," he said, "because the talks are sponsored not only by the National Council of Catholic Men which produced them, but also by the Bishops' Conference."

"For this reason," Bishop Bernardin said, "it was felt that it would not be appropriate for the U.S. Bishops' Conference to give them its endorsement."

"After consulting with Archbishop John F. Dearden, president of the Conference and Bishop Alexander Zaleski, chairman of the committee on doctrine, it was decided that the talks would only lead to further confusion at this time."

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Books

Comfort My People by Eugene C. Kennedy (Sheed, \$4.95)

Father Kennedy is concerned here with "the pastoral presence of the Church" in the world, that is, with the care of souls. The day is gone, he recognizes, when an ancient clerical framework translated into black and white terms, first for the clergy and then for the laity, just what to do, how, and when to do it. What now is to replace those guidelines? Is there a possible replacement, the author says, is "a basic Christian attitude of defenseless service to others," a replacement based essentially on human relationships. The entire book is a plea, and an agreement to the effect that pastors, priests, nuns — anyone who is in any way involved in work that has religious values — become human; that is, that they be compassionate, loving, merciful, kind. In other words, that they be, in practice, other Christs. That is a lot to ask, but Kennedy asks it with such persuasiveness and with that it is hard to believe this work will not find an immediate response among the clergy and religious.

The English Jesuits: from Campion to Martindale by Bernard Basset (Horror, \$5.00)

The author of several popular religious books is a competent historian who has taught at Stonyhurst and Beaumont Colleges in England. This book is his objective account of the history of his fellow Jesuits in England, based on considerable research in original sources. For three centuries the English Jesuits were outlawed, often imprisoned, and many were hanged, drawn and quartered, but they kept busy — with their ministry to Catholic recusants, living in hiding and disguise, and training recruits in their colleges on the continent. The last 100 years have been factual but not less active. This is an interesting, well told story.

The Spirituality of the Sacraments by Bernard Bro (Sheed, \$5.50)

The Sacraments may often seem anachronistic today, hinders from a time of intellectual naivete, mere symbols in an age which demands reality above all else. Father Bro sets out to answer such difficulties by demonstrating that sacramental spirituality is preeminently a spirituality for today. His method is to establish the essence of the Sacraments as contained in Scripture, to describe the traditional sacramental practice of the Church in liturgy and in theology, and finally to show how the Sacraments fulfill the needs of modern man in that they help him really to encounter God on the personal level.

ACTING ON THE WORD — Bernard Haring, (Farrar, Straus, \$5.95)

When Vatican Council II ordered an updating of the rules

of all religious orders and congregations, a process was set in motion that is affecting everyone in religious life. For the first time, every individual is being asked to express an opinion about the proposed changes. According to Father Haring, the life of love, sacrifice and service which religious men and women lead is not essentially different in kind from the full Christian life itself, but is rather a different style of that life, which religious are called on to live in a more courageous way. "Religious are primarily witnesses," he states, "They are called to live in an outstanding way the common vocation of all Christians." He defines an ideal religious community not as a traditional refuge from the world but a "joyous family whose primary goal is progress in charity," that is, love of God and love of neighbor.

A fashion expert, an inner city school teacher and a visiting priest will be speakers at the first meeting of the new Fraternity of Christian Doctrine program for high school pupils in Our Lady of Mercy parish.

Meeting at the church Sept. 22, ninth grade public school students will hear Barbara Lyles, youth coordinator of the McCurdy Co. fashion department, Ronald Kilpatrick, advising teacher of Rochester School No. 2, and Rev. Michael Conboy of St. Charles Borromeo Church in Greece.

They will conduct group discussions, respectively, on modern dress, sports, and war. Religious implications will be considered.

A similar program has been organized at other high school levels. Tenth graders will meet Sept. 29; eleventh graders, Oct. 6, and senior students, Oct. 13.

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Education

Georgetown Going 100 P. C. Coed

Washington (NC) — Georgetown University, the nation's oldest Catholic higher learning institution, will break a 178-year tradition and allow women into its all-male college of arts and sciences next fall.

Father Royden B. Davis, S.J., college dean, said the university's board of directors approved the decision to admit women to the college in the 1969-70 academic year. The change made after consultation with faculty members and students, means all 10 schools of Georgetown, conducted by the Jesuits, will be open to co-eds.

Founded in 1789, Georgetown was an all-male institution until 1968 when a co-ed was admitted to the school of medicine. The school of nursing was founded in 1903, but women were not common in other schools until the 1940s. Full scholarships for women were not granted until the 1950s.

Father Davis said women are being admitted to the college now because "the old European idea of separate education for the sexes is outdated. Men and women play interchangeable roles in many professions."

Also, a new \$6 million library, scheduled for completion in 1969, will allow Georgetown to handle a larger student enrollment. Father Davis noted, adding: "We simply did not have the academic facilities for more students before this time."

The college annually enrolls about 1,800 of Georgetown's total enrollment of some 7,500 students. It offers majors in biology, chemistry, classics, economics, English, fine arts, government, history, mathematics, modern languages, philosophy, physics, psychology and theology.

Competition for admission is intensive, with only one of five applicants admitted.

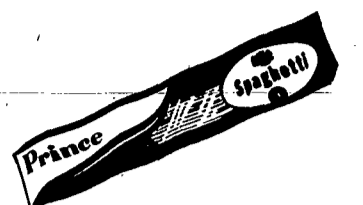
He predicted about 50 freshmen co-eds would be admitted each year, although that figure is still under study.

Healy Building on the main campus, will be converted in part to classroom space next year.

The present library, in the

Healy Building on the main campus, will be converted in part to classroom space next year.

Hey, Mrs. Wilson



Wednesday is Prince Spaghetti Day... it wouldn't be Wednesday without it.

PRODUCT

'Rachel, Rachel'

Catholic Press Features New York — "I hope it's successful, not because of any financial reward, but to prove to Hollywood you can make a film about basic, simple people, without violence and a band of Indians scalping the settlers," said Hollywood superstar Paul Newman.

The film is "Rachel, Rachel," the first film ever directed by Newman, and critics in both the general and Catholic press are also hoping it's successful, to prove that adult subjects can be handled on the screen in a non-sensational manner and still draw audiences.

"Rachel, Rachel" stars Newman's wife, Joanne Woodward, as a 35-year-old spinster schoolteacher who is fearful that unless she breaks out of her drab, emotionless existence right now, she will spend the rest of her years totally shut out from life. In her panic and confusion — helped along by a traumatic experience at a revivalist meeting — she enters into a summer affair with a childhood friend who has come back home for a visit. Her lover leaves suddenly; her hopes that she might be pregnant ("I didn't think anything alive could grow in me") prove false.

But at film's end she decides to sever most of her ties to her old life in the hope that the second half of her life will be more meaningful.

He Uses I

Denver — Father Bernard Basset, S.J., a British priest who gives retreats, writes books on spirituality and shows up from time to time on "The Tonight Show" with Johnny Carson.

Anyone who has attended his retreats — he has just arrived in Denver to begin another series — or read his books knows that Father Basset has no difficulty moving from the calm and quiet of a retreat into the frenetic late-night world of TV shows.

Evidence that Father Basset is not your every daybrand of retreatmaster is the fact that he writes his spirituality books as fiction. As he says in the forward to his latest "We Agnostics," the author, after 25 years of work with tens of thousands of people, knows that in spiritual matters fiction may come frighteningly near to the truth.

Thus, he takes on the guise of "Harry Dawes," a 58-year-old Catholic, who buys some of the changes in the post-Vatican Church — though by no means all — and who is married to "Margery," whom he describes as "more papal than the Pope and far more trigger-happy."

But "We Agnostics" is about Harry Dawes' sudden loss of faith in God and his solution of the spiritual crisis. He wakes up one morning and discovers that the God he had been trained by the Church to believe in suddenly seemed inadequate and "shriveled" — too small and irrelevant for Dawes' modern needs.

"Harry Dawes' loss of God is terribly typical of too many previously believing Catholics," commented "Sign" magazine, "and the road he takes toward a new and more realistic faith is one which deserves wide and careful attention."

"Basset shows profound understanding of the dilemma of modern man and the agony

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TV Movie Ratings

Friday, Sept. 20 thru Thursday, Sept. 26

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 objectionable for general patronage; A-2: morally objectionable for adults and adolescents; A-3: morally objectionable for adults; A-4: morally objectionable 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 objectionable for adults.

Movie listings supplied through the courtesy of TV Guide Magazine

Friday, Sept. 20			
Time	Channel	Movie	Rating
4:00 p.m.	8	Rally Round the Flag Boys	B
9:00 p.m.	10	On the Town	A-2
11:30 p.m.	10	Kiss Me Deadly	B
11:30 p.m.	13	Hoodlum Priest	A-2
Saturday, Sept. 21			
9:00 p.m.	8	Becket	A-3
11:00 p.m.	10	David and Lisa	A-2
11:15 p.m.	13	Moby Dick	A-1
12:00 a.m.	8	Rest in Silence	Not Listed
Sunday, Sept. 22			
2:00 p.m.	13	Half Angel	A-2
5:30 p.m.	13	Here Come the Nelsons	A-1
5:00 p.m.	8	The Tall Men	B
9:00 p.m.	13	Zorba the Greek	A-4
11:15 p.m.	10	Three Little Girls in Blue	A-1
12:00 a.m.	13	Across the Pacific	A-2
Monday, Sept. 23			
4:00 p.m.	8	The Rains of Ranchipur	A-2
9:00 p.m.	8	The Art of Love	A-2
Tuesday, Sept. 24			
4:00 p.m.	8	Who Was That Lady	B
9:00 p.m.	8	Blindfold	A-2
11:30 p.m.	13	I'd Climb the Highest Mountain	A-2
Wednesday, Sept. 25			
4:00 p.m.	8	Wild River	B
9:00 p.m.	13	A Hatful of Rain	A-2
11:30 p.m.	13	The Sergeant Was a Lady	A-1
Thursday, Sept. 26			
4:00 p.m.	8	Force of Arms	A-2
9:00 p.m.	10	Gypsy	B
11:30 p.m.	13	China Doll	A-3

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