

As I See It

Anti-Cigarette Puffs Hit the Nail on the Head

By PAT COSTA

Some unrelated video footings from the mental scratchpad:

- I've never been one to mourn the death of women television announcers or news commentators. Women's voices it often seems come through on radio or TV somewhat shrill or even a little squeaky. To compensate, some, as in the case of NBC's Pauline Frederick's deepen their voices to the straining point or like Nancy Dickerson become formal and serious to the brink of stiffness.

WROC's dollar-dialing

Anne Keefe (same network) proved the other night there was a happy medium between the squeaky and the ponderous. Heard her deliver a station editorial on violence in city schools that was well written and to the point. Mrs. Keefe was brisk without being brusque while commanding attention and demonstrating she is capable of more than the light burdens she has on Girl Talk and the 4 O'clock Movie.

A new attack of the virus sent this viewer to bed just before midnight election night after I'd programmed (the in word with the

new administration) slumber for myself for 2 a.m. at the earliest.

I awoke along with the rest of the nation who'd given up and gone to bed to find we'd missed nothing. The greatest suspense was still ahead of us as were the emotional scenes: the poignant mood of vice-president Humphrey's concession and the triumph of Nixon bathed in the restrained jubilation of his family and aides.

How do you fight fire? With fire, of course. Cheers for the latest public service message of the American Cancer Society on the hazards of the cigarette habit. In a

parody of those commercials which try to equate smoking with sex, popularity, glamor, the spot features the music of "Smoke Gets in Your Eyes" drifting dreamily in the background while a down-to-earth voice lists all the other poisonous elements taken into the body when one smokes.

Are you one of a minority group of viewers who regularly or semi-regularly watch Sunday morning religious shows? If you do, I'd like to hear which you prefer and why. If you don't watch, why not? Drop a letter to this column and I'll report the favorites.

Pastor Is a 'Pro' on 'Amateur Hour'

Catholic Press Features

New York — The 60-year-old Catholic pastor who did a clarinet solo on "Sweet Georgia Brown" on "The Original Amateur Hour" recently is an original, all right, but hardly an amateur when it comes to talent shows.

Father John Positano, O.S.A., who gave up a career as a professional musician to enter the seminary in the 1930s, has been organizing and performing in talent shows for the U.S.O. for hospitals for prisons and for charitable fund-raising ever since his ordination 26 years ago.

Now pastor of Our Lady of Pompeii Church in Vineland, N.J., the Augustinian priest was performing on a charity telethon in nearby Philadelphia two months ago when a backstage visitor took notice. He was Ted Mack, host of the CBS-TV "Original Amateur Hour" and a long-time clarinet man himself.

"He asked me if I wanted to go on the show, and I said 'Yes,'" is how Father Positano describes the scene that led to his appearance on the nationally televised show Oct. 27. He played "Sweet Georgia Brown," which he describes as "my theme song," and depending on how many votes he gets from the viewing audience, could be eligible for return appearances in the show's finals competition.

But more importantly for Father Positano, "I hope some doors might open." He has cut a "demonstration" record of "Petite Fleur," which he hopes a major record company will take an interest in. His purpose: to raise money for an extensive youth program he operates in Vineland and to help pay off the debt on a new church for his pa-

rishioners, mostly of Italian-American descent.

The first door that opened to him right after his "Amateur Hour" appearance was at a New Jersey prison — "I've played there twenty-two times already" — where he and a group of amateur entertainers he gathered went to put on a show for the inmates. Father Positano has performed and M.C.'d in shows at homes for the retarded, in hospitals ("I play everything from Bach to Tarnopolski, but you can't play musical stuff in hospitals"), and, most proudly, for local U.S.O. shows, which he has conducted along the Northeastern seaboard since 1942.

"The war had just started and I was just ordained, and I wanted to use my musical talent to help boost morale," Father Positano remembers. "I was in Philadelphia on my first assignment and I went to Cardinal Dougherty's chancery (who is now Bishop J. Carroll McCormick of Scranton, Pa.) and he gave me permission to organize a musical group."

That was the start of more than 25 years' service to the U.S.O. for which he was awarded a silver medalion by the national U.S.O. headquarters in Washington, D.C.

Father Positano is an ardent fan of "Country and Western" music. He numbers among his close friends such C&W stars as Lefty Frizzell, Skeeter Davis, David Houston, Guy Mitchell, Bobby Goldsboro and Doc Williams, most of who have appeared at fund-raising "jamborees" conducted by the priest. His own recording of "Petite Fleur," made famous about 10 years ago by Acker Bilk, is done in what Father Positano calls "country style."



FR. POSITANO, TED MACK JOIN FORCES.

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Movies Books

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 Boston Strangler" (Objectionable in part for all).
- Regent** — "The Sound of Music" (General).
- Cinema** — "For Love of Ivy" (Adults).
- Warning** — "You Are What You Eat" (No rating).
- Monroe** — "Flinders Keepers" (No rating).
- Riviera** — "Parent Trap" (Adults, adolescents).
- Studio 2** — "Belle Du Jour" (Objectionable in part for all).
- Loew's** — "A Man For All Seasons" (General); "To Sir With Love" (Adults, adolescents).
- Stoneridge** — "Barbarella" (Condemned).
- Panorama** — "2001: A Space Odyssey" (Adults and adolescents).
- Towne** — "West Side Story" (Adults and adolescents).
- Stutson** — "Paper Lion" (No rating).
- Fine Arts** — "The Odd Couple" (Adults).
- Little** — "Paris Blues" (No Rating).
- Lylel** — "Parent Trap" (General).

The Prayer of a Modern Man, Louis Evely, Dimension Books (\$3.75). Father Evely writes directly, succinctly and cogently of the meaning of Christian prayer, and particularly of its place in the anguished life of man today. Prayer, he shows, has frequently fallen and is in the cloud of an otherworldliness where it has become an excuse for inaction, sentimentalism and uncharity. Far from being a brake on our noblest efforts for a pious example of an attainable sanctity, vigorous and human prayer is (he insists) tied to the concrete needs of our daily life — a dream world. It is above all related to suffering man, whom Father Evely's vision never fails to see as Christ's body in history and in the womb of time, and whom he describes with engaging candor and freshness.

A Religion for Our Time, Louis Evely (Herder & I order, \$3.95). No spiritual writer of recent times has made an impact equal to that of Louis Evely. This compassionate, realistic, loving Belgian priest has almost singlehandedly rescued spiritual writing from the state of pious mediocrity and made it again a source of living, converting grace. In "A Religion for Our Time" Father Evely once more addresses his favorite reader — the man who has learned intellectually that Christianity is all about him, but feels experientially as if he is up against a closed door. Such a Christian may feel strongly that he doesn't know HOW to be a man of poverty... that God's incarnation in Christ has remained an abstraction in his life, although he knows it should be the defining reality... that the shape of his own life offers

no entry into true religion, although he knows he can be religious only by living his own life... These dilemmas and others like them are the ones Father Evely handles with rare empathy and aptness in "A Religion for Our Time."

The Citizen Christian, James Andrews (Sheed & Ward, \$4.50). James Andrews presents an understanding of Christian virtue as attitudes oriented toward problem-solving and service. For too long, he contends, the notion of Christian virtue has been devalued into narcissistic self-admiration. Too often Christians turned in on themselves to cultivate "perfection" and ignored the needs of their suffering brothers. Such a course can no longer be accepted. In harmony with the example of Jesus or with modern man's consciousness of human solidarity, the "virtues" James Andrews proposes for today's Christian include "heroic openness to the non-white, respect for creatures, dialogue that is more than talk, and creative insecurity" among others. The Christian must be a full-fledged citizen of the world, that is, of human society with all its demanding relationships and pressing problems. Mr. Andrews' discussion of the concrete issues we face is straightforward and challenging — even controversial. As Father Theodore Hesburgh writes in the introduction, "This is a spirituality for Americans built on the solid foundations of service as prayer. It probes the many Galilees right here in the United States."

Truthfulness: Future of the Church, Hans Kung (Sheed & Ward, \$4.50). No modern theologian has been more closely associated with the structural changes in Catholicism following the Second Vatican Council than Hans Kung. In his recently published "The Church" he explored the data contained in the Gospels and the earliest traditions in order to formulate theoretically an accurate theological and historical portrait of the nature of the Church. It is apparent to any observer that the years since Vatican II have been marked by crises and problems for the Church. It is Professor Kung's contention that this period is also one of hope and these problems must, however, be viewed in intimate connection with one another and, he proposes, in close relation to the central concern of the Christian: truthfulness. The problem and crises of today's Church — many of them uncovered rather than caused by the Second Vatican Council — must be examined in the concrete as well as speculatively. The essays of this book are unified by a sense of urgency and a heartfelt concern for the Church's present and future.

With Love, Ann Marie, Michel Quoist (Newman Press, \$4.95). You might expect a book with a title like this to be a little "sticky." This one is not. It is written in the language and from the point of view of a girl who is no longer a child and not yet an adult. It is in fact a diary, a day-by-day record of growing from girlhood to womanhood. The things that a girl experiences during this period — changes in body and personality, difficulties with family and friends, and sometimes troublesome thoughts about boys and sex — are talked about frankly and in plain language. Ann Marie's diary begins when she is fourteen and ends when she is eighteen. By the time you finish reading it you will know her almost as well as you do your closest friend.

Reflections for Renewal, Hogan (Holy Cross Press, \$3.50). This book will pose a problem to reviewers who are fond of labels. They will be unable to call it "progressive" or "conservative," those neat compartments that too often serve as criticism. Father Hogan follows the truth wherever it lies with the grand disregard of labels. His ideas on creating community, for instance, reflect the most advanced thoughts of theology and psychology, recognizing that community means infinitely more than mere physical proximity and common "exercises."

TV Movie Ratings

Friday, Nov. 15 thru Thursday, Nov. 21

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	Cry the Beloved Country	A-2
9:00 p.m.	10	36 Hours	A-2
11:30 p.m.	13	The Long Ships	A-1
11:40 p.m.	10	American Guerrilla in the Philippines	A-2
Saturday, Nov. 16			
1:15 p.m.	13	1001 Arabian Nights	Not Listed
3:30 p.m.	8	Gorilla at Large	B
5:35 p.m.	10	Bum! of Joy	A-1
11:05 p.m.	10	Sherik Holmes and the Terror by Night	A-2
11:20 p.m.	8	Love is a Many Splendored Thing	A-1
11:45 p.m.	13	The L-Shaped Room	A-4
Sunday, Nov. 17			
2:00 p.m.	13	The Truth About Spring	A-1
4:00 p.m.	13	The Trouble With Angels	A-1
5:00 p.m.	8	Casanova '70	B
9:00 p.m.	13	The Sons of Katie Elder	A-1
11:35 p.m.	10	The Shocking Miss Pilgrim	A-1
11:45 p.m.	13	The Mattese Falcon	A-2
Monday, Nov. 18			
4:00 p.m.	8	Lloyds of London	A-2
9:00 p.m.	8	El Cid (Part 1)	A-1
Tuesday, Nov. 19			
4:00 p.m.	8	The Man Between	B
9:00 p.m.	8	El Cid (Part 2)	A-1
11:30 p.m.	13	Wild and Wonderful	A-1
Wednesday, Nov. 20			
4:00 p.m.	8	The Blue Lagoon	A-2
9:00 p.m.	13	Man's Favorite Sport	A-3
11:30 p.m.	13	Tammy and the Doctor	A-1
Thursday, Nov. 21			
4:00 p.m.	8	The Snake Pit	A-2
9:00 p.m.	10	Cheyenne Autumn	A-1
11:30 p.m.	13	One Potato, Two Potato	A-2

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