

As I See It

TV a Conversation Piece

By PAT COSTA

Ever find yourself discussing television programs with friends? Chances are if you own a TV set and you get together with other people from time to time, you tend to talk about the country's number one entertainment medium.

It's a fast way to bridge the gap when you're face to face with someone at a party and can find little else in common to talk about.

It tells you what shows are enjoying good ratings.

TV chatter also tells you something about the other person.

For example, during dinner at some friends' home the other night the subject was Channel 21's captivating Julia Child.

If I remember correctly, I'm the one who brought her into the conversation via the art of making your own mayonnaise but it was another guest who pointed out that one of the French chef's most enduring charms is her sloppiness.

It was good, she said, to see somebody else mess up a

kitchen while preparing a meal and not make any excuses for it.

At our home earlier in the week we had entertained a pair of newlyweds, barely in their twenties. They kept bringing Johnny Carson into the conversation only to have us sheepishly admit that some nights we don't even wait for the 11 o'clock news to turn off the lights.

We came to a nice agreement, however, on the "Good Guys" seen Wednesday nights at 8:30 on Channel 10. For those who haven't seen it, it stars Bob Denver of "Dobie Gillis" and "Gilligan's Island" fame and Herb Edelman as partners in an unsuccessful beanery. Joyce Van Patten, who with Harvey Korman used to spark the old Danny Kaye show, plays Edelman's wife.

Denver is content to play the same role he has in every other comedy. Edelman is something else. Known to movie goers as Murray the Cop in "The Odd Couple," the tall, balding actor could play a brooding basset hound, a haloed angel, your friendly

neighborhood dentist or a junior varsity coach with equal ease. In fact there is a little of each in the character he portrays as the restaurant owner.

Another character I often find myself discussing is "Julia," the Negro nurse whimsely played by Diahann Carroll. In the last week I heard praises for a script in which the Negro woman adeptly handles a white acquaintance who kept putting her feet in her mouth over her first interracial friendship.

A neighbor from time to time quotes WROC-TV's Anne Keefe. Like many of us she finds Mrs. Keefe's comments about her personal life every bit as interesting if not more so than her remarks about the screen personalities.

Another neighbor finds "Judd for the Defense" conversationally stimulating primarily for its current subject matter and a third frequently incites envy by reciting the list of goodies she's seen on the educational channel 21. (Our set is not equipped to receive it.)

Possibly the most talked about program of this season and last is "Laugh In." Rowan and Martin's brand of humor lost its novelty after two shows for me but I'm definitely in the minority. The one "Laugh In" character that can still evoke a chuckle from me is the dumb blonde played by Goldie Hawn. The rest of the so-called naughtiness strikes this viewer as so much warmed-over fish.

Bishop Fulton J. Sheen will make his first extensive appearance on local television on Tuesday, March 11 at 9 p.m. on Channel 21's Rochester Magazine. The subject for his 20-minute talk will be "Why Sex is a Mystery."

Have you written to tell us you are interested in a regularly televised Sunday Mass? To discover if there is sufficient interest in the Rochester Diocese we are asking readers, particularly shut-ins who cannot attend Sunday Mass, to write to us expressing their interest.



'Firemen's Flame' at Mercy High

"Nozzle" (Bill Quinlisk, serenades Jenny (Chris Zimmer), attempting to win her affections during "The Firemen's Flame," gay-nineties musical melodrama at Mercy High School at 8:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Feb. 28 and Mar. 1. Richard Mancini and Sister Mary Christine direct the production, Thomas Cahill is choreographer, and chorus, led by Sister Mary Barbara, is accompanied by Sister Marie David.

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:

- Monroe — "Funny Girl" (Adults and Adolescents).
- Riviera — "Swiss Family Robinson" (No Rating). G.
- Studio 2 — "Three in the Attic" (No Rating). R.
- Loew's — "Charly" (Adults). G.
- Stoneridge — "The Impossible Years" (Adults). G.
- Panorama — "Oliver!" (General). G.
- Towne — "Chitty Chitty Bang Bang" (General). G.
- Stutton — "Bozoma Sera Mrs. Campbell" (Adults). M.
- Fine Arts — "The Night They Raided Minsky's" (Objectionable).
- Lyell — "Inga" (Condemned). X.
- "The Secret of Magic Island" (No Rating).
- Little — "The Fireman's Ball" (Adults).
- Paramount — "The Wrecking Crew" (No Rating). M.
- Regent — "Bullitt" (Adults). M.
- Cinema — "Faces" (Adults, with reservations). M.
- Warning — "The Lion in Winter" (Adults). G.

37 Years Atop a Desert Pillar



Catholic Press Features

New York — It's probably on no one's Lenten Reading List, but there is a poem in Phyllis McGinley's Pulitzer Prize-winning "Times Three" that just might be a help to someone still looking around for a voluntary penance. An unusual one, that is.

Part of the poem, in a chapter on "Reformers, Saints and Preachers," goes:

"Under the sun of the desert sky/ he sat on a pillar nine feet high/ When Pool and his brother came round to admire/ he raised it another/ nine feet higher..."

"And why did Simeon sit like that/ without a garment/ without a hat/ in a holy rage/ for the world to see? It puzzles the age/ It puzzles me? It puzzled many a Desert Father/ And I think it puzzled the Good Lord, rather."

Simeon was St. Simeon of Stylites, a 5th-Century Syrian monk who spent 37 years perched atop a pillar—doing penance, praying, blessing people, and setting off a short-lived pillar-sitting craze among Eastern mystics.

His life is "the basis for a film just released in the U.S., Luis Bunuel's "Simon of the Desert," about a holy man in Mexico who lives atop a 30-foot tower fighting off the temptations of Satan but eventually succumbing by going to a Greenwich Village discotheque.

The real Simeon of Stylites died preaching from his 66-foot column in 459 A.D. He is said to have attracted pilgrims from all parts of the

world and influenced the affairs of the Roman Empire.

Before ascending the pillar, he was a celebrated monk who prayed for 40 days every year while bricked up in a cell without food and water, who buried himself to the neck in sand for days at a time to mortify his flesh.

As the crowds of worshippers visiting his village monastery near Aleppo, Syria, increased and interfered with his devotions, Simeon moved to the top of a pillar to continue his meditations in solitude.

He became the most famous holy man in the Middle East, with pilgrims seeking his advice, church leaders climbing a 60-foot ladder to receive his blessing, and officials of the Roman Empire consulting him on affairs of state.

When he died, his body was taken to Antioch in a gigantic procession of church leaders, the head of the Eastern Roman Empire and 6,000 Roman legionnaires. The stump of his pillar is said to be still in place among the ruins of a cathedral built in his honor 1500 years ago.

Bunuel's "Simon of the Desert," only 45 minutes long, has been described by film critic Judith Crist as "without doubt the sharpest and wittiest of his savage insights on humans and his ferocious forays against religiosity."

Bunuel is a Spanish-born film-maker noted for his cinematic attacks on religious hypocrisy, and this film, like his earlier "Nazarin"—about a priest who tries to take Christ's words literally—has been praised by the National Catholic Office for Motion Pictures.

A spokesman for NCOMP said "Simon of the Desert" was for "the experienced viewer." (It's been rated A-4; morally objectionable for adults, with reservations) and observed that "Bunuel is striking here not at religion but at contradictions within the institutions of religion."

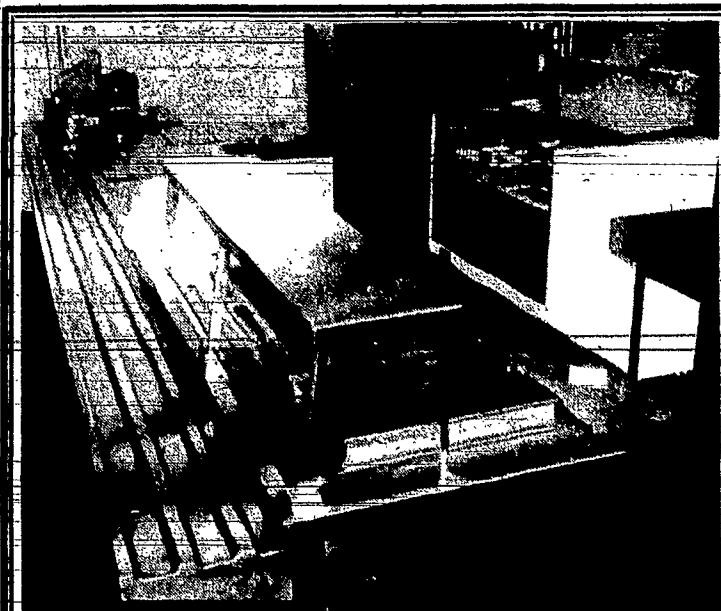
TV Movie Ratings

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, Feb. 28 thru Thursday, March 6

Time	Channel	Movie	Rating
4:00 p.m.	8	Remarkable Mr. Pennypacker	A-3
9:00 p.m.	10	Sunday In New York	B
11:00 p.m.	13	Lover Come Back	B
11:35 p.m.	10	Wilson	A-1
Saturday, March 1			
5:35 p.m.	10	Tribute to a Bad Man	A-2
9:00 p.m.	8	Some Like It Hot	B
11:05 p.m.	10	Web of Evidence	A-3
11:15 p.m.	13	Strange Bedfellows	A-3
11:35 p.m.	8	The Day the Earth Stood Still	A-2
Sunday, March 2			
5:00 p.m.	8	The Long, Hot Summer	A-3
9:00 p.m.	13	The King and I	A-1
9:00 p.m.	13	The Agony and the Ecstasy	A-2
11:30 p.m.	10	Down Argentine Way	A-2
11:45 p.m.	13	Jezebel	A-2
Monday, March 3			
4:00 p.m.	8	House of Bamboo	A-2
9:00 p.m.	8	Fear No Evil	A-2
Tuesday, March 4			
4:00 p.m.	8	The Lost World	A-1
11:30 p.m.	13	Hide and Seek	A-2
Wednesday, March 5			
4:00 p.m.	8	Love Is a Many-Splendored Thing	B
8:30 p.m.	13	The Young Lions	A-3
12:00 a.m.	13	Inside	Not Listed
Thursday, March 6			
4:00 p.m.	8	The Racers	B
9:00 p.m.	10	Goodbye Charlie	A-3
11:35 p.m.	13	I'd Rather Be Rich	A-2



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