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# As I See It

2

## Patronize Good Films, Not Bad Ones **Catholic Press Features**

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### **Doctors Waiting in the Wings**

#### By PAT COSTA

The TV doctor era is about to return. Reports are there are at least a couple of medic shows in the offing for the coming fall season and last Sunday we were treated to a partial preview of one.

Ceremonies for Gen. Eisenhower made it necessary for Channel 13 to delay the movie, "Marcus Welby, M.D." for one hour and when it did screen it, the station chose to let us see the last half.

Curiously enough it was sufficient to give an idea of what the upcoming series based on this pilot will be Robert Young in the title role a general practioner, one of a very few in the world of specialists.

Not only will this give the cript writers more leeway in ferred to as soap opera and penning the weekly dramas but perhaps it will help to popularize again the role of the dector who treats most all

of the problems of an entire seen in abundance during television's day hours. family.

Frankly, if television must To be seen with him is move in cycles then I am as James Brolin as his young glad as not to see the era of partner who uses a motorthe medic returning. Ditto for cycle to make his house calls the lawyer which should foland Anne Baxter who is aplow if the shot-callers are folparently going to provide lowing chronological sequence some of the romantic interin their cycles. est as Dr. Welby's friend. -

and the second second

They may not, be what I call prime programming but The two-hour pilot had a kaleidoscopic quality, obvithey are in my book to be ously a ploy of the producers preferred over the monster to show all the gambits they cult, the fantasy supers here, have up their sleeve regardnight-time soap opera, private ing storylines. But it tended eye, the situation comedies to confuse, which when comabout kooky young marrieds, bined with the fact that the

under its belt.

the police officer shows plus film was a fragment, made many others all of whom have enjoyed their own cycles. Westerns never really left, On the whole, however, witness "Gunsmoke" now in Marcus Welby, would appear its teens and "The Virginian" to be several cuts above the with seven or eight seasons hospital-oriented garbage re-

• Telephone calls to the Courrier-Journal regarding Channel 13's Wednesday night movies of recent weeks may be an indication that the public is beginning to revolt against the now prevalent permissiveness in the film permissiveness\_in\_ and TV industries.

Seven viewers last week registered their disapproval over such movies as "The Servant," "Town Without Pity" and "The Children's Hour" all scheduled by WOKR-TV in lieu of the Wednesday Night\_network movie. The first deals in part with multiple rape and the third with lesbianism. How's that for family viewing? Wonif those who are upset over the Catholic schools sex syllabus have registered their interest in this area of children's "education."

we will acknowledge only those letters of complaint about 'dirty' films which in-dicate the letterwriter has taken his family to see 'My Side of the Mountain." Robert Radnitz, the only

New York-' In the future,

major film-maker outside the Walt Disney organization who ommitted to producing family-type films, has been steadily picking up support, but that "put up or shut up" de-cree from a leading Protestant clergyman is undoubted. ly the strongest boost Rad-

nitz has ever received.u The Rev. James M. Wall, editor of "The Christian Advocate," not only laid down the challenge in a review of Radnitz's latest film for family audiences but also outlined a program of action for pastors.

"Church complaints about why don't we have good pic-tures' are rarely backed with a display of box-office supcommented the Rev. Mr. Wall, a Methodist, whose publication is distributed to ministers. He proposed that any ministers who are concerned about a lack of suitable film fare for young peo-

ple ought to "go to your phone and call the local theater manager," and promise support if the manager will book the film.

the Mountain' demonstrates it. Adults in the company of their families will enjoy this "Why do this?," Mr. Wall asked. "Because a Radnitz film's spirit of youthful infilm arrives on the public scene about once every two years, and the film folk who

put up the money to make his films want to know if there is profit in them. They need support from churchmen because these are the kinds of film we have been saying we want. To ignore them at the box office is to forever forego our right to complain about products that sell because of their sexual content.

sultant.

dependence as much as their smallest youngsters." "My Side of the Mountain," which is Radnitz's fifth film - preceded by "A Dog of Flanders" (1960), " Misty'

films can be intelligent en-

tertainment, and 'My Side of

A 13-year-old-nature enthusiast (Ted Eccles) makes

a jacket from deerskin as his pet raccoon stands by

the Mountain."

in Robert Radnitz' latest family film, "My Side of

"nature is accepted for it-

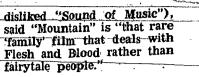
self, and is not converted. a

comedy or soap opera."

story with substance instead MOSCOW TO LEARN

OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

morrow," the National Catho-



Radnitz, who has talked re-cently of establishing a separate film company to produce family-type films unless the existing major companies devote much more at. tention the genre, has been hailed by "Newsweek" in a special article about children's films for "fighting the -Said "Newsgood fight." week":

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By FR. CLAFF

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Howell is an expert

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"For years he has been fighting the good fight for financing: to reach a child's mind through films you must first reach the mind of a banker. He has proselytized for movies that 'not only entertain but educate audience as well,' and has faithfully delivered such goods to studios that would prefer standard Disney imitations."

Now on a national tour to. promote the film, which will open at Easter-time in some cities and then throughout the Spring and Summer nationwide, Radnitz commented:

"In some of my talks to groups around the country, invariably the question comes up: 'What can we do to help promote better films?' The answer to that, of course, is patronize them. It is very easy to be negative and to criticize.

la Disney, into a platform for "It is also important that we criticize, but if we used a lit-Praise has come to "My tle bit more of our energy Side of the Mountain" from to support the good instead secular sources also. Nationof vitiating this energy in attacking the bad, for me, this ally prominent critic Judith. Crist, who is known to be would be a step in the right tough on family films (she direction.'



# Movies

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

With the Catholic Office

The Abortion Decision, by

for some headscratching.

**Current Comments**