

As I See It

'Twas Television's Finest Hour'

By PAT COSTA

If the landing of men on the moon was mankind's most exciting hour, then certainly it was television's most exciting also.

Certainly, never before in my viewing experience do I remember sitting before a TV screen clapping my hands and jumping up and down at such a thrill.

Nor do I recall spending such a half-hour as the 30 minutes before the hand clapping took place.

With the help of TV's simulation of the descent and landing of the lunar module, I along with millions of others, ran the range of emotions from terrible apprehension to terrible pride.

Then with Neil Armstrong's "Tranquility Base here. The Eagle has landed," there was nothing but joy.

Sticking with Walter Cronkite who had the help of astronaut Wally Schirra seemed a smart move. While each explained these comments from the moon and mission control that needed explaining, both had the good sense to keep quiet during actual relay of messages.

By contrast, the first step on the moon seemed almost tame. Ryan with the lunar module camera, turned on Armstrong. It seemed so right and natural to be watching that there was no room for amazement.

Had it not been for the in-sertion of President Nixon's message to the two astronauts, one could easily feel he was viewing but another in the line of science fiction films.

Emotion then consisted mainly of curiosity, tempered always of course with pride. And as I watched the pair bouncing about on the surface of the moon I could not help but feel that whatever else they were feeling, our moon men were having fun.

If television had it's finest hour, there were some moments during the entire telecast that were disappointing.

Interviewing of viewers across the country from Connecticut to California was poorly handled almost universally by the various correspondents of the networks.

I turned the channel once in embarrassment upon hearing a particular display of ineptitude by a fairly well

known newsman at a gathering of moon watchers.

True, there seemed to be only a couple of questions that the correspondents could ask the obviously thrilled viewers, but surely with all the weeks of preparation, they could have done a better job of wording them.

Ditto when it came to talking to the wives of the astronauts. Mrs. Michael Collins was heard rephrasing several of one reporter's questions in order not to have feelings and words ascribed to her that were obviously not her own.

As for the astronauts themselves, one might have wished Mission Control had been able to include a poet or a naturalist who could have described for us the wonders the moon as they saw it.

"Beautiful" and "great" are expressive words but seem science-oriented engineers do rely on them a bit much.

Apollo 11 with its particularly tactful crew might have benefited by having a woman along. I don't think I know any women who don't have time to talk, particularly if they're the first in their crowd to have done something new and different.

Movies

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

With the Catholic Office ratings, we include the ratings of the Motion Picture Association: G, general; M, mature audiences; R, restricted (persons under 16 admitted only when accompanied by parents or adult guardian); X, persons under 16 not admitted.

Cinema — "Goodbye, Columbus" (Adults, with reservations). R.

Fine Arts — "Run Wild, Run Free" (General). G.

Little — "The Lost Man" (Adults). M.

Loew's — "The Chairman" (Adults). M.

Monroe — "Funny Girl" (Adults and Adolescents). G.

Panorama — "Oliver!" (General). G.

Paramount — "The Oblong Box" (Adults). M.

Regent — "My Side of the Mountain" (General). G.

Riviera — "Kakatoa, East of Java" (Adults and Adolescents). G.

Stoneridge — "True Grit" (General). G.

Studio 2 — "If" (Adults, with reservations). R.

Stinson — "Chitty Chitty Bang Bang" (General). G.

Towne I — "Sweet Charity" (Adults and Adolescents). G.

Towne II — "April Fools" (No Rating). M.

Waring — "South Pacific" (Adults).

NCOMP: Painless Violence Real Culprit

(Catholic Press Features) New York — The violence in today's society may be due in large part to screen violence that was never violent enough, according to the National Catholic Office for Motion Pictures.

The NCOMP comment, coming in the long wake of public reaction to screen and TV violence following the assassinations of Robert F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King, lends some support to those who argue that if you are going to have screen violence it is better to make it repulsive and shocking rather than to pretty it up.

In a generally favorable review of "The Wild Bunch," a Western that some critics have attacked as gory, the film office observed:

"Earlier Western movie presentations of killings were certainly less detailed than 'The Wild Bunch,' though it is to be admitted that they were no less profuse. Death was shown as bloodless, almost painless action. Moreover, justice superficially prevailed in the last reel.

"The violence in our society today is, to a degree, the result of a generation whose attitudes were influenced by such presentations."

While continuing to decry excessive and unnecessary depiction of violence in films — NCOMP has attacked "A Bullet for the General" and "The Oblong Box" on those counts — the film office noted that "it has become common practice to identify movies about violence as a cause of the upheavals going on in our society."

"The distinction that it seems necessary to make about violence on the screen," the film office said, however, "is whether or not it is portrayed as something painful, something destructive of human beings."

"The Wild Bunch" is not completely unsuccessful on this score. In no way does the



William Holden, right, and Ernest Borgnine after a bloody shootout in "The Wild Bunch."

film gloss over the violent end of its central characters and of its innocent bystanders. It shows the blood splattering and the gaping wounds caused by the large caliber bullets of the period. It is not pretty to look at and certainly imparts a healthy respect, if not fear, of guns."

Based on history, "The Wild Bunch" is about a gang of outlaws who, in 1914, are driven to increasingly dangerous ventures to stay ahead of more sophisticated lawmen and less open land. The film's climax finds them in a shoot-out with Mexicans for whom they have stolen guns from the U.S. Army.

The film office described the gang of outlaws as "a killing machine which had none of the human flair or engaging flamboyance of the gangs that had operated in a less sophisticated era. Yet the film depicts them as men with an elemental sense of criminal honor among themselves, a code nonetheless that is more talked about than observed."

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Books on Loan

The following books of interest to our readers may be found on the shelves of the Rochester Public Library, or may be obtained through any affiliated library in the diocese.

Professional Rock and Roll, ed. by Herbert H. Wise (Collier, 1967). Advice on everything from how to form a rock and roll band of your own to how to write the music and get it published, direct from the men who are big in the rock and roll industry. Art.

Office Planning and Design, by Michael Saphier (McGraw-Hill). Good coverage of the subject of office planning and design, with special emphasis on efficient space utilization. Useful to designers, architects, office managers and business administrators. Art.

The Just War, by Paul Ramsey (Scribner, 1968). Advocates the responsible use of power in maintaining justice and order in the world. Business and Social Science.

Ideas in social development. Business and Social Science.

Teaching as a Subversive Activity, by Neil Postman and Charles Weingartner (Dellacorte, 1969). For those who passionately believe that though the American school system is sick, it can be changed into one that may contain the hope of the future. Education.

Hex, by Arthur Lewis (Trent, 1969). An account of a trial for murder in which witchcraft played an important part, and its influence today in Pennsylvania Dutch Country. Education.

The Mountain Lion, by

Robert Murphy (Dutton, 1969). Story of an Arizona lion, which should find a place in the hearts of outdoor people and cat lovers. Fiction.

The Mountain Lion, by Robert Murphy (Dutton, 1969). Story of an Arizona lion, which should find a place in the hearts of outdoor people and cat lovers. Fiction.

The Movies, Mr. Griffith and Me, by Lillian Gish. The theatrical career of this popular actress and her sister Dorothy, parallel the history of the moving picture industry in America. Biography.

Cigarette Ads Being Butted

Washington, D.C. — (RNS) Directors of the National Association of Broadcasters have approved a plan for the gradual elimination of cigarette advertising on radio and television.

Under terms approved by the association in a mail ballot, all such advertisements will be ended by Sept. 1, 1973 and the gradual elimination of ads will begin Jan. 1, 1970 with a 10 per cent reduction in such commercials.

Participants in the agreement include the three major networks and 399 of the nation's 623 television stations as well as the four major radio networks and 2,412 of the 5,985 radio stations in the U.S.

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 adults; 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, July 25 through Thurs., July 31

Time	Channel	Movie	Rating
Friday, July 25			
10:00 a.m.	13	Siege at Red River	A-1
9:00 p.m.	10	Never Say Goodbye	B
11:30 p.m.	10	Battle of the Sexes	A-1
11:30 p.m.	13	The Best of Enemies	A-1
Saturday, July 26			
2:30 p.m.	10	Finders Keepers	A-2
8:00 p.m.	13	The Bandit and the Princess	Not Listed
9:00 p.m.	8	The Young Warriors	Not Listed
11:05 p.m.	10	The Next Voice You Hear	A-1
11:15 p.m.	13	The Best Things in Life Are Free	A-1
11:30 p.m.	8	Rawhide	A-2
Sunday, July 27			
2:00 p.m.	13	Blueprint for Murder	A-2
3:00 p.m.	13	Springfield Rifle	A-2
3:30 p.m.	13	Appointment With a Shadow	A-2
5:00 p.m.	8	A Certain Smile	A-2
5:00 p.m.	13	The Dirty Game	Not Listed
9:00 p.m.	13	The Nutty Professor	A-1
11:15 p.m.	13	The Great Garrick	A-1
11:30 p.m.	10	Dressed to Kill	A-1
Monday, July 28			
10:00 a.m.	13	The Great Garrick	A-1
8:30 p.m.	8	Something Wild	A-3
12:00 a.m.	13	The Lonely Trail	A-1
Tuesday, July 29			
10:00 a.m.	13	The Bandit and the Princess	Not Listed
9:00 p.m.	8	Invitation to a Gunfighter	A-3
11:30 p.m.	13	Mr. Belvedere Rings the Bell	A-2
Wednesday, July 30			
10:00 a.m.	13	Mr. Belvedere Rings the Bell	A-2
10:00 p.m.	13	Fame Is the Name of the Game	Not Listed
11:30 p.m.	13	Black Chapel	Not Listed
Thursday, July 31			
10:00 a.m.	13	Black Chapel	Not Listed
9:00 p.m.	13	Siege of the Saxons	A-1
11:30 p.m.	13	Between Heaven and Hell	A-2

Film Workers Criticize Code

Hollywood, Calif. — (NC) — The motion picture industry's own employees have called its self-regulation code

a failure. They are demanding more effective means to protect the public against obscenity and pornography.

The demands were made by the Hollywood AFL Film Council, composed of unions and guilds representing more than 25,000 movie industry employees in southern California.

The council's unanimous resolution listing demands for reforms expressed concern because of "the marked increase in the excessive and offensive portrayal of sexual acts, nudity, perversion, sadism and brutality in films being made and shown today" by independent producers and recognized exhibitors.

The council said many of its members are "reluctantly forced to accept employment on such objectionable motion

pictures because other work opportunities have been reduced due to 'runaway' foreign film production."

The 25,000-member organization charged that the Motion Picture Association of America's (MPAA) voluntary classification system is "inadequate to the task of providing an effective system of self-regulation which can control the release in the United States of obscene, pornographic or offensive films made by independent producers here and abroad as well as by MPAA members."

The council pointed out that lack of control in this area can only lead to strict government censorship and has already brought about church, civic and community organizations.

Children's Circus Set at Art Gallery

The kids are having a circus at the Memorial Art Gallery this summer. "Circus Minimus" is the name of the show.

Made up of small-scale sculpture, the exhibition includes such perennial circus favorites as the Fat Lady (a torso by LaChaise), Strong Man (Rodin's "Balzac"), Tattooed Man (pre-Columbian Mexican sculpture), and Siamese Twins (African sculpture). Bronze, wood, and stone elephants, bears, giraffes, and monkeys peer out from behind bars on red and yellow circus cages. A carousel revolv-

ing in the center of the room at the Memorial Art Gallery displays a bronze buster, juggler, bareback rider, and performing seals.

Among local artists whose work is represented are Achille Fongione, David Meisbach, Jack Popham, Al Wilson, and Carl Zollo. Some of the circus animals were done by students in the children's classes.

The show will remain up through the middle of November. It was assembled by Isabel C. Herd, assistant director.

Housing Film

To Be Repeated

WXXI has announced it will repeat the broadcast of "Think About It" at 9 p.m. Thursday, July 31.

The documentary, which was broadcast by all four Rochester television stations last fall, depicts Rochester's housing crisis while discussing the housing shortage, its genesis, where it stands now and the necessary steps for solution.

HENRIETTA K. OF C. PICNIC TOMORROW

Henrietta Knights of Columbus will hold their annual family picnic tomorrow, July 26, in Henrietta Memorial Park.

A general meeting is scheduled for Sept. 19, Grand Knight William Waldorf announced.

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