

As I See It

'Sex-sationalism' 'In' at ABC

By Pat Costa



A neighbor walked in the other day and caught me watching television much to my embarrassment.

It was not so much that it was mid-afternoon and there were obviously better ways that I could be putting my time to use.

What hurt was that she surprised me while I was giving "The Dating Game" the once-over.

This ABC weekday show which brings together idiots of all ages is long on sex and short on entertainment. Nevertheless, it has been a fixture of the network for several years, only recently losing its status as a Saturday night program as well.

With emcee Jim Lang dressed in what some network executive considers suitably "mod", matching haircut and "in" glasses, the man or woman who is selecting a date asks totally inane and often sex-slanted questions of the three victims, hidden behind a screen. The questions are prepared by the producer which still does not remove the blame from the questioner.

How could anyone on either end of the questioning be stupid enough to subject oneself to such oral garbage is beyond this viewer.

"Dating Game" is outdone in embarrassing moments only by "The Newlyweds" which precedes it during the week and retains it Saturday night time slot.

Bob Eubanks, whose restrained, seemingly naive appearance, tempers the show somewhat, serves as emcee.

While the questions on "The Dating Game," may seem more raw than those posed on "The Newlyweds", the latter show specializes in loaded inquiries

into the just marrieds marital life.

By attempting to match up answers between husbands and wives, the show's purpose is to elicit responses to titillate viewers. Sometimes a disagreement between spouses is fanned into an outright fight and that, too, is encouraged up to a certain point.

Adding "Love, American Style", a third ABC entry that utilizes sex as its main commodity, it is only a logical conclusion on the part of viewers that the network indeed is trying for rating points the sensational, if adolescent, way.

Danny Thomas' Shrine to St. Jude

About 3,000 teenagers and Danny Thomas will pool their talents next month so that a hospital in Memphis, Tenn., devoted to treatment of childhood diseases, can continue to thrive.

Thomas, who has devoted much of his life work to the founding and support of the hospital, will launch the fund appeal in "An Evening with Danny Thomas" at the Eastman Theater, May 5.

The teen-agers, with a goal of \$30,000, will then canvass homes throughout Monroe County from May 6 to 9. Last year the teens raised \$23,007 and have upped their sights this year.

The teenagers are organized under a 70-member Teen Board which is headed by president Elaine Kauffman, a senior at Mercy High School.

Other officers of the Teen Board are: Vice President, Robert Hummel, a student at Monroe Community College; secretary, Chris Ranieri, a sophomore at St. Agnes High School; treasurer, Mike Cough-

Sisters' Chorale Goes on Tour Throughout The Diocese

The Concert Chorale of the Sisters of St. Joseph, under the direction of Sister Virginia Hogan, will present its fifth annual program in a series of seven concerts throughout the diocese.

The schedule:

April 25, 3:30 p.m., Ithaca College, Ithaca.

April 25, 8 p.m., Notre Dame High, Elmira.

April 26, 4 p.m., deSales High, Geneva.

April 26, 8 p.m., Emerson Auditorium, Auburn.

May 1 and 2, 8:15 p.m., St. Agnes High, 300 East River Road, Rochester.

May 3, 3 p.m., St. Agnes High, Rochester.

This singing group, which has delighted its combined audiences of more than 30,000 people in the past, is presenting this year a program centered on the theme of "the human com-



munity." Music can often serve as a "bridge over troubled waters" and the Chorale hopes

that it may provide one such bridge.

Their numbers range from Schubert's "The Lord is My Shepherd" to the Man of La Mancha's "Impossible Dream," and will include "Let There Be Peace on Earth," "Vienna Life," "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands," and Bach's "Blessing, Glory and Wisdom."

General admission tickets are \$2 and are available at the box office or at any Sisters of St. Joseph convent.

line, a senior at Bishop Kearney High School.

Because he believes prayers early in his career were answered by St. Jude, the patron of lost causes, Thomas vowed to build a shrine, later changed to a hospital, in honor of the saint.

Toward this end he formed the St. Jude Hospital Foundation in 1946; the hospital was completed in 1961 and dedicated in 1962.

The comedian is now president of ALSAC, the organization in charge of fund-raising for the hospital. More than 80 per cent of its funds are raised by Teenager Marches throughout the country.

The hospital has an annual budget of \$2.5 million and is entirely involved in treatment of such diseases as leukemia, muscular dystrophy, under-nutrition and childhood cancer. Care and treatment is free for any child with admittance by referral of private physician for children 16 and under.

According to Carol Rogers,

general chairman, tickets are on sale at Sibley's downtown store. Prices are \$4, \$5, \$6, and \$7, with all seats reserved.

Appearing with Thomas will be recording stars Wilmer Alexander and The Dukes, Dante, a magician, and vocalist Delores Perry.

Bobby Rydell Due Here

Bobby Rydell, one of the top young male singers, and Dana Valery, Italian-born South African, will headline the 13th annual Letter Carriers Show and Dance Saturday, April 25, at the War Memorial.

Rydell, who will be appearing on the eve of his 28th birthday, is considered an established show business figure with a great future. He has recorded 15 albums, 20 singles, numerous appearances on the Red Skelton, Danny Thomas, Perry Como, Ed Sullivan and Dick Clark television shows and summer stock in "West Side Story" and "Tom

Sawyer" which set house records in Kansas City.

Miss Valery, whose brother Sergio Franchi is one of the big names on the nightclub singing circuit, has a repertory which covers a wide range, from ancient ballad to pop and she can sing in four languages — English, French, German and Xosa, a language spoken in South Africa with cricket-like clicking sounds.

WHEC-TV's Eddie Meath will be emcee. Proceeds will go to the Letter Carriers Benevolent Association. Len Hawley's big band will play during the show and for dancing to follow.

'The Molly Maguires'

Violence, Looting Not Confined to Today

Catholic Press Features

Eckley, Pa. — The scene is a familiar one these days. The mob storms into the store and an orgy of looting follows. Someone lights a fire and the building becomes a raging inferno as men and women run off with whatever they can carry.

The scene is not from a recent riot in a Black ghetto, but from a new movie about an Irish-Catholic uprising in the coal-mining regions of eastern Pennsylvania during the 1870s.

The film is titled "The Molly Maguires," after the name of a secret society of Irish immigrants who resorted to violence and terrorism to overcome the brutal exploitation of mine owners when strikes proved unsuccessful.

Starring Sean ("James Bond") Connery as a real-life leader of the Molly Maguires, and based upon actual incidents in the 1870s, the film is expected to be a dramatic reminder to white middle-class Americans that other ethnic groups in America besides Blacks have seen some of their members resort to vio-

lence to overcome social injustice.

The store that is looted in the film — after the leader of the Molly Maguires goes there merely to pilfer a decent suit of clothes in which a fellow miner can be buried — is a "company store," owned by the mining company. At the end of each week, most miners would find that after loading, say, 14 cars of coal at 66 cents a car (\$9.24) the store would deduct from his wage such items as dynamite powder he used and repair of mining equipment. In the film one miner clears 24 cents for the week.

Historically, the Molly Maguires were blamed for a 20-year reign of terror that included 42 murders and 122 felonious assaults, mostly on Welsh, German and English residents of the area who either ran the mines or were sympathetic to the owners.

The Catholic Church, while sympathizing with the workers, vigorously denounced the violent measures taken by the Molly Maguires (named after a band of cutthroats in Ireland),

and in the film the Church's position is represented by a "Father O'Connor," played by character actor Philip Bourneouf.

In a sermon, delivered the morning after a mine watchman has been viciously beaten and the mine flooded, "Father O'Connor" tells the congregation, which includes the Molly Maguire leader and many of its members:

"Have you any notion how many last rites I've performed for men killed or crippled or sickened to death by what was done to them in the mines? Do you think, any of you, that I'm not acquainted with the sufferings of my parish?"

"But I know these sufferings will not be improved by violence. Violence is a sin. Do you not know that much? Has the Church taught you nothing at all, that you don't know as much as that? I warn you now — God will judge last night's violence as a sin and those who committed that violence will be judged as sinners and, as certain as there is a God above, as sinners they will be damned"



Father J. Peter Clynes of the Scranton diocese served as technical consultant during filming. Here he chats with coal-blackened Sean Connery, hero of movie.

Outside the church, "Father O'Connor" tells "Jack Kehoe" (the character Connery plays) to learn how to turn the other cheek "or stay out of this church." The only friendliness the priest shows toward Kehoe is to warn him later on that there is a company spy in the Molly Maguires (played by Richard Harris, who ultimately succeeds in having Kehoe and his cohorts hanged).

The Church was opposed to the Molly Maguires also on the grounds that it was a secret society, the same reason the Ancient Order of Hibernians also came under an ecclesiastical ban temporarily. (For a while it was suspected that the Maguires and the AOH were the same organization, partly because in some mining towns the AOH lodge served as a convenient "front" for the Maguires.)