

As I See It

Let's Keep News Shows

By Pat Costa



With the economic state of the country the way it is, it should come as no surprise that the networks were among the first to be poormouthing their own plights.

There are hints, subtle and not so subtle, of cuts here and there, due principally, they say, to the loss of cigarette advertising revenues.

What will be the first programs to go? It stands to reason those to be eliminated will be shows that add prestige to the networks but little in the way of sponsor's cash and national ratings.

These include NBC's monthly "First Tuesday" and CBS' weekly prime time "60 Minutes." Both are concerned with news-oriented feature stories.

For example a recent "First Tuesday" took the first hour of its two-hour stint to deal with the tourist boom in Colorado's ski country and the unhappy story of the practice of some cancer victims to head for Mexico and the drug Laetrile, forbidden in the U.S.

Two hours of such news features is an embarrassment of riches, possibly a little too rich for many viewers who are accustomed to half-hour schedules.

At the end of the first hour I switched from NBC to take a look at CBS "60 Minutes."

Had I stayed with "First Tuesday," however, I would also have had a look, TV magazine style, at the life of the American steel worker, macrobiotic dieting and a report on China.

If the latter stories were as depressing as the first two I

am just as glad to have missed them.

What the money hungry land developers are doing to Colorado is merely more of what has happened elsewhere in the United States. Big money has come in, given ranchers up to 50 times what their ranches might have been worth to them, cut trees down, attracted people and as a consequence polluted streams with raw sewage and once bare mountains with too many skiers.

The cancer "cures" in Mexico sought by people who have been given no hope in the U.S. was another of the world's tragic stories. Laetrile, a drug which the U.S. says is useless, is being administered to those who have no hope left or who do not wish to submit to surgery, radiation or other approved methods of treatment. The segment left this viewer with the fervent prayer that Mr. Nixon's proposed war on cancer will work.

"Sixty Minutes" opened in a lighter vein with a visit to the White House as it gave a state dinner for Italian Premier Emilio Colombo.

I was dazzled by the gowns and hairdoes of the ladies, particularly the Nixons, but somewhat less impressed by CBS reporter Morley Safer, who is no Harry Reasoner either in penetrating questions or witty observation. Reasoner was former co-host of the show with Mike Wallace before departing to ABC as co-anchorman.

A news story on Ron Lyle, ranking U.S. amateur boxer and former convict was of less interest to me. But a housing scandal in Spokane, Wash., involving the real estate industry and the FHA and a host of bilked families was a real eye-opener.

Bravo, Volpe!

By FRANK CROCIATA

On March 3 Richard Volpe, professor of piano at Nazareth College, played his second recital of the season at the Arts Center Recital Hall. The scholarship, flawless technique, and drive that make a Volpe recital a satisfying experience were present. But a facet has been added that seems to complete Volpe's artistry — a thunderously compelling sonority.

Volpe distinguished himself with a reserved treatment of the Bach chorale prelude "Now Comes the Gentiles' Savior". He followed with a delightfully witty reading of a G Major Scarlatti Sonata and sculptured architecture of the grand manner in Beethoven's "32 Variations in C Minor.

The second half consisted of etudes by Chopin, Debussy, and Scriabin. Particularly impressive were Chopin's octave study and the Scriabin atonal etude in fifths, which led to the encore in which Volpe's dynamic sonority grew to seismic proportions: the massive Rachmaninoff D-Major "Etude Tableau".

The hall was electric with excitement as Volpe recreated the huge study-picture with the refined power of one who is in total sympathy with the great pianist-composer. He evoked the ringing images of

cascading bells that only Rachmaninoff himself and Horowitz have been able to produce.

Such was the ovation that Volpe yielded 45 more seconds of delight, a rippling etude of Mendelssohn.

For Charity — A Continentwide Bridge Party

Identical sets of bridge hands, dealt by computer, will be played out in 200 cities March 19 in the 21st Continentwide Charity Bridge Tournament.

Local players will start at 8:15 p.m. in the new cafeteria building at the center of the Xerox Webster complex. Printed analyses of the hands by various experts will be distributed after the tournament. The public is invited, at \$2.50 per player and \$1 per spectator, for the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. Webster prize winners will be eligible for further competition.

Stuart A. Sather, president of the Rochester Area Bridge Association, is general chairman for the continental tournament. About 15,000 players are expected to take part, in the United States and Canada.

(A summary and evaluation of the coming week's network prime-time films, prepared by Catholic Press Features)

TRAVIS LOGAN Thursday, March 11 (CBS)

This is a new made-for-TV film, starring Rick Morrow and Hal Holbrook, and has not been seen before.

There is no Catholic film office rating for a made-for-TV movie.

HARPY Friday, March 12 (CBS)

A new made-for-TV movie, this stars Hugh O'Brian and Elizabeth Ashley.

Made-for-TV movies are not rated by NCOMP.

THE PLEASURE OF HIS COMPANY (1961) Saturday, March 13 (NBC)

A frothy, entertaining comedy, this stars Fred Astaire as an international playboy who returns, after 15 years absence, for the wedding of his daughter (Debbie Reynolds), much to the surprise of his ex-wife (Lilli Palmer) and the fiancée (Tab Hunter), both of whom worry about the dazzling spell Astaire has cast over Debbie.

Pleasant, with some excellent San Francisco scenery.

NCOMP rated it A-2, unobjectionable for adults and adolescents.

This is a summary and evaluation of prime-time films offered by the network to its affiliate stations. Check your local listings to ascertain if your channel is scheduling the network offering.

THE QUILLER MEMORANDUM (1966) Sunday, March 14 (ABC)

An espionage thriller starring George Segal as an agent assigned to investigate a neo-Nazi group. Alec Guinness appears as a British intelligence chief, Max Von Sydow is a Nazi, and Senta Berger is the love interest. Tolerable. Featured is some striking Berlin scenery.

NCOMP rated it A-3, unobjectionable for adults.

WHO'S MINDING THE MINT? (1967) Monday, March 15 (ABC)

A delightful little low-key comedy about a clerk (Jim Hutton) in the U.S. Bureau of Engraving who accidentally destroys \$50,000 and concocts a plan to sneak into the building one night and print up a new batch before it's missed, aided by a crew of slaphappy characters, including Dorothy Provine, Milton Berle, Joey Bishop, Bob Denver and Walter Brennan.

Highlight is the break into the Mint, via the Washington sewer system, not to mention the hectic getaway in a car belonging to a religious cult.

NCOMP rated this film A-2,

unobjectionable for adults and adolescents.

BOY, DID I GET A WRONG NUMBER! (1966) Tuesday, March 16 (NBC)

Bob Hope stars as a real-estate salesman who becomes accidentally involved with sex-pot Elke Sommer's attempts to get away from making movies that feature her getting in and out of baths. Marjorie Lord is Hope's suspicious wife and Phyllis Diller is their zany (what else?) maid.

Lots of typical Hope one-liners (many of them double-entendre), a murder accusation and a wild auto chase fill up the time.

NCOMP rated it A-3, unobjectionable for adults.

Jesuit Alumni Fete Planned

The annual Communion breakfast for Jesuit alumni in the Rochester area will take place Sunday, March 21 at McQuaid Jesuit High School. Mass will be at 10 a.m. in the Students' Chapel followed by breakfast in the cafeteria.

Father William P. Poorten, chairman of the Department of Theology at McQuaid, will be the principal speaker. Thomas N. Trevett and Arthur Meyer, of the McQuaid Alumni Association, are cochairmen. All Jesuit alumni are invited and may make reservations at McQuaid (Father Noonan—473-1130) by Wednesday, March 17.

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