



Medieval Fair

Richard Nasca in the role of bishop opens the sixth graders' Medieval Fair at St. Theodore's School. Under the direction of Sister Mary Ellen Ford, the children constructed miniature castles, monasteries and serf villages and wrote and acted morality plays.

Writer Considers Theology In Western Movie Terms

Philadelphia — (RNS)—The church is a covered wagon rolling into a new world, or it is the courthouse, a symbol of stability, in an Episcopal writer's Wild West analogy.

The Rev. Wesley Seeliger of College Station, Texas, divides Christians into two classes — pioneers and settlers — in an article published in the April issue of *The Episcopalian*.

For the "settler," the church is the courthouse, "the center of town life. Its doors are solid oak. No one lives there except pigeons and they, of course, are most unwelcome. . . . The courthouse is the settler's symbol of law, order, stability."

In pioneer theology, Mr. Seeliger said, the church is the covered wagon, "a house on wheels always on the move . . . the place where the pioneers eat, sleep, fight, love, and die. The old wagon isn't comfortable, but the pioneers could care less. There is a new world to explore."

Among the settlers, God is the mayor, "chief executive of the city. . . . No one sees or knows him directly, but since there is order in the town who can deny he is there? The settlers fear the mayor, but need him to keep things going."

The God of the pioneers is the trail boss, says Mr. Seeliger, "rugged and full of life. The trail boss lives, eats, sleeps, fights with his men. Their well-being is his concern. Without him the wagon wouldn't move. . . . He gets down in the mud with the pioneers to help push. He slugs them when they get soft and want to turn back."

The Episcopal priest continued the comparisons by casting Jesus, the Holy Spirit, the Christian and the clergyman in

roles taken from Western movies.

Jesus, in settler theology, is the sheriff, "sent by the mayor to enforce the rules. He saves the settlers by offering security and decides who gets thrown in jail."

For the pioneer, Jesus is the scout. "He rides out ahead to find out which way the pioneers should go. He lives all the dangers of the trail. . . . By looking at the scout, those on the trail learn what it really means to be a pioneer."

The Holy Spirit, in settler theology, is the saloon girl. "Her job is to comfort the settlers. They come to her when they feel lonely, or when life gets dull or dangerous. She tickles them under the chin and makes everything o.k. again."

For the "pioneers," the Holy Spirit is the buffalo hunter, Mr. Seeliger said. "He rides along with the wagon train and furnishes fresh, raw meat for the pioneers. . . . a strange character, sort of a wild man."

The Christian, in settler theology, is the settler, "staying in good with the mayor." By contrast, the pioneer Christian is "a man of risk and daring — hungry for adventure, new life, and the challenge of being on the trail."

The clergyman is the bank teller in settler theology, according to the priest's analysis. The bank teller is "a highly respected man in town. Within his vaults are locked the values of the town. He feels he and the sheriff have a lot in common. After all, they both protect the bank."

Among the pioneers, the clergyman is the cook. "He doesn't furnish the meat — he just dishes up what the buffalo



Courier-Journal

Lincoln, Kennedy And King

George Tipton and Miss Lorice Stevens of The National Theatre Company, will present "Lincoln, Kennedy and King" at St. John Fisher College Friday, April 23 at 8 p.m. in Kearney Auditorium. The program is a tribute to three great Americans whose lives stand as monuments to man's aspirations for his fellowman. The words these men spoke and the ideas they embodied will be presented through song, poetry, narrative and visuals.

At Home with the Movies

KID RODELO (1966)
Thursday, April 15 (CBS)

A cliché-ridden Western about a bunch of criminals who try to make it from Yuma, Arizona, to the Mexican border with a cache of \$50,000 in gold. Don Murray and Janet Leigh are the stars, along with Broderick Crawford and Richard Carlson, who killed himself off in the first reel to direct the rest of the film.

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

POWDERKEG
Friday April 16 (CBS)

In this TV-movie, a government agent (Rod Taylor) tries to rescue a train hijacked by a Mexican "liberator" (Fernando Lamas) as ransom for the return of his imprisoned brother (Michael Ansara). Luciana Paluzzi provides the sex interest.

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.

There are no NCOMP ratings for made-for-TV movies.

SEBASTIAN (1968)
Saturday, April 17 (NBC)

A rather sophisticated British spy drama starring Dirk Bogarde, aided by computers in his derring-do.

Critics fell in love with the film because — despite all the complex hardware — the hero comes off as a rather human character.

NCOMP rated this one A-3, unobjectionable for adults.

MARILYN (1963)
Monday, April 19 (ABC)

This was Hollywood's last exploitation of Marilyn Monroe, a "documentary" put together after her tragic death.

It may have some value in retrospect now, but at the time of its release it was rated by the Catholic film office as B, objectionable in part for all, and was given the following commentary:

"This film, a tasteless and unscrupulously commercial exploitation of the late Marilyn Monroe, consists of excerpts from various of her 20th Century-Fox films which mainly highlight suggestiveness in costuming, dialogue, dancing and situations. Particularly offensive is the pornographic and coarse treatment given to a sequence taken from an unfinished film."

HOUSE OF CARDS (1969)
(A repeat)
Tuesday, April 20 (ABC)

George Peppard stars in an Alfred Hitchcock-type suspense film about an American caught up in a foreign intrigue involving assassinations. Inger Stevens co-stars as a love interest, and the film also features Orson Welles.

It was rated G (for general audiences) by the movie industry, but NCOMP placed it in its A-3 category, unobjectionable for adults, and observed:

"While House of Cards will appeal to the majority of viewers with its feel for suspense and its attractively lush Parisian setting, some might find it a bit too close to the Stanley Dorn film, Charade, and others will understandably be disturbed by some spurts of violence and gratuitous though silly attempts at titillation."

(Catholic Press Features)

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