

PAT COSTA
As I
See It



If Catholics sometimes wonder how the Church appears to non-Catholics, perhaps all we have to do is turn on our television sets to find out.

A recent Dick Van Dyke show, a situation comedy series, gave us a look at one current problem, the turning aside of vocations for marriage by priests and sisters, sometimes to one another.

In the half-hour show, seen Saturday nights at 9 p.m. on CBS, Van Dyke and his TV wife Hope Lange take various people into their home when a desert storm threatens. Included are a priest, a nun and a woman introduced as the nun's sister.

The priest and nun are dressed in clerical garb. Later when Van Dyke sees them leave his home in the middle of the night dressed in civilian clothes he decides they are drug smugglers who had assumed the clerical role as disguise.

A return visit by the trio when the storm does not abate gives the gentleman a chance to explain. He is a priest, and the one woman is a nun. Her sister is their chaperone. They are on their way to Mexico where they will marry and then work in a mission for children.

Explains the priest, "We have lost our vocations, not our faith."

If I was surprised to see the subject used as comedy material I must add that I did not find it offensive.

In the first place the comedy arose from Van Dyke's leaping to conclusions rather than any finger pointing or other attack on the religious pair. At all times the script accorded them

the maintenance of dignity and if we do not like the idea that a television writer chooses to air our problems in public, particularly without the sanctimonious cover of a documentary approach, then that is our hardship.

Personally, I find such a portrayal much more palatable and certainly closer to the truth than the saccharine and unbelievable religious figures with which most TV writers like to people their dramas.

"Do not Fold, Spindle or Mutilate" starring Helen Hayes, Myrna Loy, Silvia Sydney and Mildred Natwick on a recent ABC "Tuesday Night at the Movies" looked to me as if it had all the ingredients of a rather unusual comedy-mystery series.

Maybe Helen Hayes was a little too cute but Myrna Loy and Mildred Natwick were superb in this story about four elderly ladies who first entice and then trap a murderer for the police.

Conductor Set For 'Boheme'

Maestro Anton Guadagno, music director of the Philadelphia Lyric Opera Company and one of the leading opera conductors on the international scene, will be guest conductor of the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra for the "La Boheme" presentation at the Auditorium Theater on Nov. 29.

"La Boheme" features an international cast headed by Veriano Luchetti, brilliant young tenor from LaScala Opera and winner of the Spolletto Festival of Two Worlds.

Once Over Briefly

Ratings from the Catholic Office for Motion Pictures on the moral suitability of current movies:

ANDERSON TAPES — Adults only — A coarse comic melodrama about a robbery of a New York apartment; unnecessary sex and violence.

BILLY JACK — Objectionable for everyone — Conflict between runaway teenagers and people of an Arizona town. Sadistic violence and nudity, obscene dialogue.

BLACK JESUS — Adults — Woody Strode's magnificent portrayal of an African revolutionary makes up for interminable dialogue, slow pace and mechanical plot.

CARNAL KNOWLEDGE — Objectionable for everyone — A satiric reduction of human characters to sex-obsessed caricatures; crude language, explicit visuals.

CONFORMIST — Adults — with reservations — The development of fascism, with Jean-Louis Trintignant as a man so driven to conform that he would become an assassin.

CRY UNCLE — Condemned — Occasionally screamingly funny but most paunchy private eye's fornicating his way through a blackmail case.

DRIVE, HE SAID — Condemned.

DOC — for adults only — Marshall Wyatt Erp gets involved in a gunfight at O.K. corral. The old-time Western excitement is marred by making the plot a moralizing allegory about the Vietnam War.

FRIENDS — Objectionable — Daft idyll about a teen age couple having a baby without either doctor or midwife.

HELLSTROM CHRONICLE — Adults and adolescents — Science-fiction film with various insects starring; the terrible potentialities of insect power.

JOHNNY GOT HIS GUN — Adults, with reservations — Dalton Trumbo's film, based on his own 1938 novel about a World War I "basket case."

KOTCH — Adults — Old fashioned sentiment without the treacle about an unwed mother.

LET'S SCARE JESSICA TO DEATH

Courier-Journal

At Home with the Movies

Thursday, Nov. 25 (CBS)

The usual Thursday night movie is being pre-empted tonight for a Thanksgiving special.

A DEATH OF INNOCENCE
Friday, Nov. 26 (CBS)

Shelley Winters and Arthur Kennedy star in a made-for-TV film about a young girl from Idaho who moves to New York City and finds herself a suspect in the murder-robbery of one of her elderly neighbors.

The girl's parents come to New York and at great expense and sacrifice hire one of the best defense attorneys (Kennedy) to defend their daughter. Most of the film was shot in Manhattan.

There are no Catholic film office (NCOMP) ratings for made-for-TV films.

HOUR OF THE GUN (1967)
Saturday, Nov. 27 (NBC)

One of many films made on the legend of Wyatt Earp and that shootout at the you-know-which corral. This one is slow on the draw.

Mustachioed James Garner is Earp, Jason Robards drinks up a storm as Doc Holliday and the

head of the Clanton gang is Robert Ryan, mean as ever.

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

THE GREAT RACE (1965)
(Part I)
Sunday, Nov. 28 (CBS)

This is a delightfully entertaining spoof of old-time movie-making — all the way from dressing the hero in white and the villain in black to a spectacular pie-throwing sequence at the film's end.

The great race is a turn-of-the-century round-the-world auto race between Leslie Gallant (Tony Curtis) and Professor Fate (Jack Lemmon). Commercial breaks would cause too much to be left out in a one-night showing, so the second half will be aired Sunday, Dec. 5.

EARTH II
Sunday, Nov. 28 (ABC)

A made-for-TV sci-fi adventure about the creation of a "new world" out in space, by transporting elements from Earth out there. A crisis develops when the Red Chinese shoot a nuclear missile into orbit and the astronauts aboard Earth II must decide what ac-

tions to take. No NCOMP ratings for these films.

JOURNEY TO THE FAR SIDE OF THE SUN (1969)

Monday, Nov. 29 (NBC)
A rather well-made sci-fi film — much in the spirit of 2001: A Space Odyssey — about two men being sent off on a six-week mission to explore a strange new planet that has been discovered on the other side of the sun.

Much emphasis is placed on the human factor — there's a long look into the lives of the astronauts, one of whom is having marital problems — but there's enough space hardware and talk to please space addicts.

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

CYO Bowling

More than 20 teams representing local parochial elementary schools will participate Saturday, Dec. 4, in the second annual CYO Elementary School Bowling Tournament at the North Park Lanes, 711 Ridge Road East, beginning at 1:30 p.m.

Boys and girls teams, grades 6 through 8 will compete.

COME DINE WITH US

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UNCLE JOHN'S FAMILY RESTAURANT 3420 MONROE AVE. Complete line of pancakes and waffles. Steaks, salads, smalfishes, sandwiches, sundaes and milkshakes. Childrens birthday parties. Where everyone meets after church. 381-2850.

Kar-Mac Manor Dinners from \$2.95 — Routes 5 & 20 Between Geneva & Waterloo Waterloo Exit 42 Featuring Prime Rib — Char Broiled Steaks — Chicken Oregon — Liver & Onions — Seafood — Dancing Fri. & Sat. Rte. 5 & 20 Between Geneva & Waterloo. Reservations — 789-1305 or 539-8044.

CINELLI'S COUNTRY HOUSE 4 1/2 miles east of Pultneyville, on Rt. 18 (Lake Rd.) Overlooking Lake Ontario Unusual decor, excellent cocktails, superb steaks, seafood & prime ribs of beef, luncheon 12 to 2 P.M. Dinners 5 to 9, Sat. 'til 10, Sundays 1 P.M. to 8 P.M. Closed Mondays Accommodate private parties. Make your reservations now. Opens Easter Sunday. Your hosts: Margaret & Frank Cinelli. 315-483-9508.

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GRASSI'S RESTAURANT & COCKTAIL LOUNGE 461 STATE ST. FINE ITALIAN CUISINE Home Made Lasagna - Italian Sausage, Ravioli and Manicotta. For reservation call 454-4310. Thank you. Joe Grassi, Proprietor.