

PAT COSTA
As I
See It



Every Saturday night that we are home, my husband and I have a brief conversation at 9 p.m. that goes like this:

One of us says, "Whew, that show is terrible!"

And the other replies, "Why do we keep watching it?"

I recount it here only because there is the possibility that our sentiments mirror the nation's or vice versa.

The program in question — and yes, I am talking about television — is a situation comedy titled "Bridget Loves Bernie."

It is a ridiculous show, full of inanities and banalities signifying nothing. The premise is a throwback to another era. The character development is nil. The scripts are poorly written and the plots go nowhere, do nothing, say nothing.

Yet, "Bridget Loves Bernie" has one of the highest ratings of any of the new shows which debuted this past fall.

Why? It is the very mediocre filling between two toothsome slices of bread in a very uneven sandwich.

"All in the Family," frequently the country's favorite TV show, again, according to the ratings system, precedes "BLB" and "Mary Tyler Moore" follows it.

And the truth is that some of us are just too lazy to either get up and shut the set off or to fiddle around and find out what else is playing.

Orthodox Jews Score 'Bridget Loves Bernie'

New York (RNS) — A national organization of Orthodox Jewish rabbis and educators has urged CBS-TV to discontinue the "Bridget Loves Bernie" televi-

Once Over Briefly

YOUNG WINSTON — Adults and adolescents — Churchill in his salad days. Simon Ward bears a striking resemblance to the real thing.

HAMMER — *Condemned* — Another rip-off of the black film audience. It'll hit you on the head.

REEFER MADNESS — *Not Rated* — Made in the stone age of cinema. It has a message for our time. Marijuana is a no-no.

FISTFUL OF DYNAMITE — Adults — The new name of "Duck, You Sucker." Rod Steiger and James Coburn.

BROTHER OF THE WIND — *Everyone* — Has the Marlon Perkins Seal of Approval.

CARRY ON, DOCTOR — Adults — Carries on the "Carry On" tradition.

DUMBO — *Everyone* — He's just a fat kid with big ears.

THE GODFATHER — Adults — Multiscar-winner to be.

HAMMERSMITH IS OUT — *Objectionable* — Faust updated, and poorly done.

LADY SINGS THE BLUES — Adults, with reservations — The story of Billie Holiday, with everything from Amos 'n' Andy to Superfly.

THE MECHANIC — Adults — First-rate spine tingler.

PLAY IT AS IT LAYS — Adults, with reservations — Existentially, how to buy a hamburger.

RAGE — Adults — George C. Scott.

THEY ONLY KILL THEIR MASTERS — *Not rated* — James Garner sics 'em.

TRISTANA — Adults — Catherine Deneuve in Luis Buñuel's superlative film.

ULZAN'S RAID — Adults — Burt Lancaster and Bruce Davison track down Indians in the Southwest.

THE VALACHI PAPERS — Adults, with reservations — The story of one, big, happy "family."

Courier-Journal

CBS, the network responsible for the trio, loves this kind of behavior on the part of viewers. All networks do.

"Bridget Loves Bernie", for those fortunate enough never to have seen it, is about a girl and a boy who meet, fall in love and marry. He is a boy from a middle class Jewish family who runs a delicatessen and she comes from an affluent Irish Catholic family. It may have worked 30 years ago on Broadway. It doesn't work here. Who cares if there are still people dumb enough to get upset over mixed marriages? There are more serious problems in this world.

The two young stars, Meredith Baxter and David Birney, are given relatively little enough to do.

The dialogue is between their mothers, overplayed by Bibi Osterwald and Audra Lindley, and their fathers, played by raspy-voiced David Doyle and Harold Stone.

To touch all bases, Bridget has a liberal priest brother and Bernie has a black man for a best friend.

They can't save the show either.

Come January, "Bridget Loves Bernie" will get some competition in the form of Shirley Booth who takes on a new situation comedy. And perhaps this is just what the doctor or viewers ordered.

In its appeal to WCBS-TV and the show's sponsors here, the 500-member alliance declared: "Moreover, we who in our lifetime lost one third of our people to the Nazis 'final solution' cannot accept with equanimity this television series' encouragement of the spiritual genocide of American Jewry through intermarriage — the main theme of the series."

At the same time, the National Council of Young Israel, an Orthodox Jewish laymen's organization also based in New York, has gone on record calling for an end to the TV program.

The Rabbinical Alliance pointed out that inter-marriage is strictly forbidden by Jewish law.

"Yet this series not merely condones inter-marriage but repeatedly suggests it is desirable, by having the inter-married couple as the heroes while portraying their parents, who oppose the practice, as being prejudiced, foolish, out of tune with the times, and just not 'with it,'" the Alliance said.

"In addition," the Alliance contended, "there is the misinformation of this series conveying to the young the impression that only minor difficulties, often of a humorous nature, are experienced in inter-marriage, when actually, in most cases, far more serious difficulties occur."

At Home With the Movies

WEEKEND NUN

Wednesday, Dec. 20 (ABC)

Described as a true story, this made-for-TV drama stars Joanna Pettit, Vic Morrow, Ann Southern and James Gregory in a film about a young nun caught in a conflict between the responsibility of her religious commitments and the demands of her job as a juvenile probation officer.

WILL PENNY (1967)

Thursday, Dec. 21 (CBS)

More than just a Western, this movie strives to incorporate many themes — age vs. youth, labor vs. management, love vs. marriage. Charlton Heston accurately portrays the aging cowpuncher Will Penny, illiterate but sensitive, who finds himself at the mercy of the narrow social and economic system of cattle ranching. His travels in search of work lead him to the defense of a cultured woman (Joan Hackett) and her son, who by accident become settlers. Worthwhile seasonal fare. (A-II).

GOODBYE, MR. CHIPS (1969)

Friday, Dec. 22 (CBS)

Not the original James Hilton novel, nor, for that matter, the Robert Donat-Greer Garson masterpiece of the Thirties, this "Chips" is nonetheless a pleasant old-fashioned romantic film that most people will find quite moving. In this musical version, Peter O'Toole plays the distracted, unbending schoolmaster who is set upon, conquered and finally humanized by the lovely Katherine (Petula Clark). Pleasantly unobtrusive music. (A-I).

MAYERLING (1968)

Saturday, Dec. 23 (NBC)

Mushy, overlong, lavishly costumed "women's film" starring Catherine Deneuve

Pontiff's Mass

To Be Seen Here

Pope Paul VI's Christmas Mass and Message will be telecast via satellite from Rome on Christmas eve on WXXI-Channel 21.

The 90-minute color transmission will be carried by Channel 21, 8:30-10 p.m. and will be augmented by English commentary and translation by Father Agnellus Andrews, an English Franciscan noted for his television coverage of Vatican affairs.

Bishop Hagan is also scheduled for radio and television appearances during the holidays.

On Saturday, Dec. 23, he will speak on the "Rosary and Christmas Message" over the Family Radio Network.

On Christmas Day, the bishop will appear on the Ed Meath Show at 8 a.m. and the Christmas message will be his topic.

The Papal Christmas Mass usually originates from the Sistine Chapel of the Vatican, but this year will be held near the small town of Sant'Oreste, 25 miles from Rome.

Pope Paul will say Mass for workers at the large construction site of a new rail line between Rome and Florence, marking the third time that he has left the Vatican to deliver his Christmas message.

Arrangements for the telecast are being made by Father Peyton's Family Theatre, which was selected by the Vatican to arrange U.S. distribution for the telecast.

DICHTER TO PLAY

Misha Dichter, recently hailed by Newsweek as "the best of a new breed of pianists", will perform in Rochester on Wednesday, Jan. 17 at the Eastman Theatre.

Wednesday, December 20, 1972

and Omar Sharif in the "tragic" etc. Monie Ellis is oh-so-cute in the title role, Mike Burns is perplexed as her intended, and Joan Bennett and Paul Lynde steal the show with their mugging as the G's parents.

A DEATH OF INNOCENCE

Sunday, Dec. 24 (CBS)

Repeat of a made-for-TV courtroom drama. Shelley Winters is cast as a Midwest mamma who comes to big, bad New York City to sit in on daughter Tisha Sterling's trial for murder. Just another day in Fun City.

GIDGET GETS MARRIED

Sunday, Dec. 24 (ABC)

This is the latest, self-explanatory extension of the presumably endless "Gidget" series. We can't wait for "Gidget has a Family." "Gidget Goes to Reno,"



\$2700 Winner

Timothy Shaw (right) of Sacred Heart Cathedral School is the winner of a four-year \$2700 scholarship to McQuaid Jesuit High School in the 16th Annual McQuaid Spelling Bee. At left is runner-up Ronald Madurski of St. John the Evangelist School in Spencerport, who won a \$1350 scholarship.

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