

FAT COSTA
As I
See It



Holiday gatherings bring friends together. And each friend is a TV critic. Here are what some of them have to say:

From one wife: "E. doesn't like to watch Archie Bunker anymore. Archie is supposed to be so pro-Nixon but during the election Carroll O'Connor (who plays Archie) came out in favor of George McGovern. E. says it takes all the enjoyment out of the show for him. Why don't these actors keep their political preferences to themselves?"

From a couple: "Bob Newhart is our very favorite. Did you notice how they always make reference to his watching the Monday night football game on TV. There must be a woman writer in there. In fact they did a whole show about Newhart and the Monday night game. His wife had fixed a gourmet meal, quiche-whattayacallit and everything and he and his friends couldn't take their eyes off the screen."

From a friend: "I'm glad you said what you said about Julie Andrews. No matter what she does, she'll always be Goody-Two Shoes."

From a Protestant mother of three "Maude" is much worse than Archie. I wish they'd clean up those scripts and also put it on at a later time."

From an older man: "I'm sorry they took off David Frost. My wife and I really enjoyed him."

From a long-suffering wife: "Thank heavens, there are only a couple of weeks of football left."

From another: "Yeah, but, then basketball starts."

Footnote to the "Maude" story. Several readers wrote in to tell us how much they appreciated having the names and addresses of sponsors of products seen during the abortion episodes. At least one viewer wrote to each sponsor telling them of her family's decision to boycott their goods as a measure of protest.

David Hartmann demonstrated on the Bing Crosby Christmas Show that he has an entertaining voice. When he gets tired of doctoring on "The Bold Ones" he can take up crooning.

Have decided that "Mannix" is popular for one reason only. Sedentary men live vicariously watching him take chase week in and week out after the bad guy. So we know he's in good shape. What else can he and the scriptwriters do?

At Home with the Movies

MR. AND MRS. BO JO JONES
Wednesday, Dec. 27 (ABC)

Repeat of a lightweight tragic-comedy in which a young couple and their respective families are thrown into an uproar because of the girl's sudden case of pregnancy. What's the matter with kids these days?

J.T.
Thursday, Dec. 28 (CBS)

Peabody Award-winning drama about a young boy in Harlem who is in danger of being crushed by his environment and led into delinquency by his peers when out of a vacant lot comes a battered cat that the boy takes care of and thereby finds a purpose and direction in life. The answers may be a little too pat, but the dramatization has great appeal, and the performances of Kevin Hooks as J.T., Jeanette DuBois as his worried and exasperated mother, and Theresa Merritt as his wise and understanding grandmother are outstanding. Very enjoyable, occasionally enlightening, and only slightly maudlin.

HOOK, LINE, AND SINKER
(1969)
Friday, Dec. 29 (CBS)

Informed by his doctor that he has only a few months to live, Jerry Lewis embarks on a trip around the world in order to indulge his favorite sport—fishing. The alleged comedy also involves wife Anne Francis and doc Peter Lawford in attempts to cash in on the peripatetic fisherman's rather large insurance policies by pulling a switcheroo in the

local morgue. For hard-core Lewis fans only. (A-I)

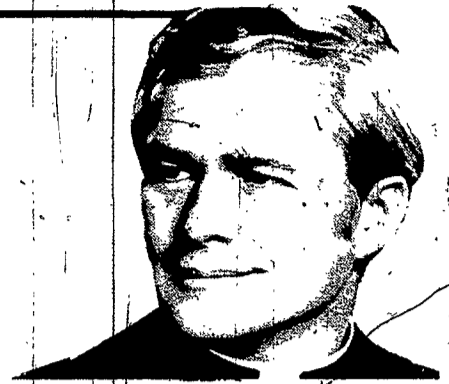
MOUSE ON THE MOON (1963)
Saturday, Dec. 30 (NBC)

Rollicking British comedy with Margaret Rutherford, Bernard Cribbins, and gap-toothed Terry

Thomas. The plot revolves around a tiny principality's efforts to repair its hot-water heating system. The government is stumped until it hatches a scheme to apply for U.S. foreign aid to send a rocket to the moon." (A-I)

FR. LOUIS HOHMAN

The Open Window



Q. Our parish is planning to have a special day for families on a Sunday afternoon from 2 to 5 p.m. It will include Mass, activities and supper. The Mass will follow the readings for that particular Sunday.

Our pastor now tells us that this Mass will not be a Mass of obligation for those attending.

My question is: how can it be possible to participate in a Mass on a Sunday and not have it fulfill your obligation? Whether we attend Mass only to fulfill an obligation is a basic question. I know in this particular instance it is placing a burden on the family to make the necessary arrangements for attending church in the morning, then rushing about to be ready by 2 p.m. for this planned program which will include a Liturgy.

The matter is stirring up much discussion.

A. It should first of all be made clear that the obligation you refer to is covered by a Church law. When we studied Canon Law there was only one kind which was specified as not fulfilling the obligation (that is, only one kind I can remember). That was a Mass said in a private chapel — a chapel in the home of a nobleman, for example. The reason was apparently that regular attendance at such Masses would undercut parish life — the parish as a community.

In the case you mention I see no problem of conflict with law. The Mass is being held in your parish and is a parish Liturgy. It is also within the hours allowed for Sunday Mass. And I cannot imagine any reason the pastor may have to exclude this Mass from fulfilling the obligation.

Over and above that, there seems to be undue emphasis on the OBLIGATION as opposed to the FACT of participating in Divine Worship in community. I guess I would like to know more about the pastor's reasoning on the matter.

Once Over Briefly

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 — Multioscar-winner.
HAMMER SMITH 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. Scit's hot

THEY ONLY KILL THEIR MASTERS — Not rated — James Garner sics 'em.
TRISTANA — Adults — Catherine Deneuve in Luis Bunuel's superlative film.
ULZANA'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."
CABARET — Adults — Christopher Isherwood's Berlin. Critics have been going ga-ga over Liza Minnelli's portrayal of Sally Bowles.
EASY RIDER — Adults with reservations — Peter Honda and Dennis Chopper took for America. The Catholic film office labeled this re-release "slightly quaint."
EVERYTHING YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT SEX — Condemned — Comic Woody Allen's put-down of Dr. David Reuben's best-seller.
FIDDLER ON THE ROOF — Everyone — Exuberant musical of life in Tsarist Russia.

WARING CONCERT

After 56 years of leading the Pennsylvanians, Fred Waring will bring his entourage to Rochester in a concert, "Year 56", at the Eastman Theatre, Friday, Jan. 19 at 8:15 p.m.

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