

PAT COSTA
As I See It



From the mailbag:
Letters to this column following our stand on the "Maude" abortion show have alerted us to certain other items readers find offensive both in and out of TV.

For example, one reader complained about the plunging qualities of Julie Andrews' neckline. Another protested about a tasteless feminine hygiene ad that ran in this paper. (It was removed as soon as technically possible.) A third wrote to tell us that her family doesn't watch "Bridget Loves Bernie" either, but not for the same reason (poor scripts, no plot) as given here.

Rather, she said, the reason is the fact that she has heard rumors that the two young stars of the show are living together "without benefit of marriage."

She adds: "It is not up to me to judge these two people's lives — I usually don't require actors and actresses to be devoid of all faults, but we are trying to encourage marriage in our home by our own actions . . ."

No expert on morals, I would have to leave the problem for someone else to handle. But I would point out that (1) the situation is only rumored, (2) true, it is not up to us to judge; (3) private lives have nothing to do with public performances (4) parents' example in marriage will certainly outweigh anything seen on TV.

As for the first two letters mentioned, the complaints refer to

certain vulgarities found in the communications media. While tasteless, they hardly compare with making a joke out of the crime of killing the unborn.

Speaking of "Maude," the replies from CBS are finally trickling in to readers who protested the show. One reader, Mrs. Cathy Tanguay of Pittsford sent us her copy of the letter from the network and commented she thought CBS "is a bit on the defensive."

Here is an excerpt:
"Since its first broadcast . . . there has been overwhelming evidence that the public is accepting "Maude" in the spirit intended. It has become one of the five most popular television programs on the air today, attracting a weekly audience of more than 30 million. Presumably these people not only have come to accept the satiric characterizations but to welcome them. The series has also received exceptionally appreciative reviews from many thoughtful and experienced critics."

The letter is signed by Thomas J. Swafford, vice president, program practices, CBS.

What Mr. Swafford didn't say is that the program on two different occasions attacked a basic tenet of the Church, presumably offending a great many more than 30 million Catholics, who neither accept nor welcome satiric treatment of a sacred right, the right to live.

Once Over Briefly

- UP THE SANDBOX — Adults, with reservations — Barbra's Walter Mitty.
- THE POSEIDON ADVENTURE — Adults — Sinker stinker.
- DELIVERANCE — Adults, with reservations — Not your ordinary camping trip.
- THE SNOWBALL EXPRESS — Everyone — The driven snow.
- TRAVELS WITH MY AUNT — Adults, with reservations — Film-flam adventure.
- THE HIT MAN — Condemned — Non-entertainment for blacks.
- 1776 — Adults and adolescents — The Singing of the Declaration.
- THE GETAWAY — Adults, with reservations — Mucho macho.
- PETE 'N' TILLIE — Adults, with reservations — Awkward serio-comedy.
- THE GREAT WALTZ — Adults and adolescents — Oh, those saccharine oom-pah-pahs.
- THE EMIGRANTS — Adults and adolescents — Epic masterpiece on the American experience.
- THE KING OF MARVIN GARDENS — Adults, with reservations — Go directly to another movie.
- 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.'s hot.
- THE RULING CLASS — Adults, with reservations — Pokes a sharp, funny finger, at British aristocracy.
- TOMORROW — Adults and adolescents — A sensitive, look

- into William Faulkner's rural ethic.
- ACROSS 110TH STREET — Condemned — Indeed, as even the buildings are.
- JEREMIAH JOHNSON — Adults and adolescents — Robert Redford as legendary mountain man.
- AVANT! — Objectionable — Angels have 47 chromosomes.
- MAN OF LA MANCHA — Adults — The impossible nightmare.

Arts Group To Honor Copernicus

The Polish Arts Group of Rochester is planning a dinner dance, two films, and ceremonies at St. John Fisher Campus in honor of the 500th anniversary of the birth of Nicholas Copernicus.

Copernicus was the developer of the heliocentric system of astronomy and gained both fame and condemnation for his work De Orbium Coelestium Revolutionibus, On the Paths of the Heavenly Spheres, which revolutionized nearly every branch of science in the Western world of his day.

A dinner dance will be held at 6:30 p.m., Saturday Feb. 17 at St. Stanislaus Church auditorium. Dr. Eugene Kusielewicz, president of the Kosciusko Foundation will be the main speaker. Tickets are available from Matthew Nowak 342-1201.

Markek Konopnicki, from the U of R, and Dr. Ljubo Matulic, of the St. John Fisher faculty, will speak at ceremonies honoring the scientist in Kearney Hall on the Fisher campus, Sunday, Feb. 18. Films of Poland will also be shown.

At Home with the Movies

DIVORCE HIS; DIVORCE HERS
Wednesday, Feb. 7 (ABC)
The second part of the Taylor-Burton film that sees divorce from first the husband's viewpoint, and second the wife's. Made for TV, and unrated.

THE PROFESSIONALS (1966)
Thursday, Feb. 8 (CBS)

Richard Brooks has written a straight action entertainment that rarely bogs down in telling its story. Four soldiers of fortune (Lee Marvin, Burt Lancaster, Woody Strode, and Robert Ryan) are hired to rescue a woman (Claudia Cardinale) being held for ransom deep in Mexican territory. Each of these men has a particular skill needed to accomplish an almost impossible mission.

The bandit in this case is an imaginary revolutionary called Raza sympathetically acted by Jack Palance. Ralph Bellamy as the aggrieved husband of Cardinale should also be mentioned for his part.

What raises the film above the level of the average adventure film is the stylish manner and steady pace of its action. But what is surprising is the liberal use of coarse language and sensuous scenes in this type of outdoor action film. (A-III)

THE UNDEFEATED (1969)
Friday, Feb. 9 (CBS)

Solid, unpretentious Western has old-fashioned movie virtues and the great strengths of John Wayne and Rock Hudson in the key roles. Wayne and Hudson are, respectively, ex-Union and ex-Confederate officers leading bands toward Mexico for a new start. They meet, clash a bit, and gradually develop a deep respect for each other, all the while taking adventure and adversity by the horns. (A-I)

THE ANDROMEDA STRAIN (1971)
Saturday, Feb. 10 (NBC)

Technologically complicated storyline makes this film tedious but tense for the average sci-fi fan.

After wiping out an entire New Mexico hamlet except for two inhabitants — an infant and an elderly alcoholic — deadly microbes from outer space are isolated in an elaborate, multi-layered underground lab, where the government has enlisted the country's top scientists and medical specialists to analyze the bacteria. They come up with something to destroy it before it wipes mankind off the face of the earth.

The story is gripping if overdone, and is based on Michael Crichton's best-seller. (A-II)

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST (1946)
Saturday, Feb. 10 (PBS)

Jean Cocteau's classic film of the traditional fairy tale is part of the PBS' Film Odyssey Series. Cocteau's ability to make fantasy seem like reality is extraordinarily evident here. Josette Day plays Beauty, and Jean Marais is the Beast.

Francis Steegmuller, Cocteau's biographer, will be interviewed following the film.

THE LONGEST DAY (1962)
Sunday and Monday, Feb. 11 and 12

Giant World War II saga details the momentous Allied D-Day invasion of Normandy on June 6, 1944. Despite its overwhelming scale and several

GAMES ON RADIO

Two high school basketball games will be aired Friday, Feb. 9. The Aquinas at East game will be broadcast at 4:15 p.m. over WROC-FM and the Pittsford at Webster game at 8:40 p.m. over WROC-AM.

NEWS FOR THE DEAF

Corning — News for the Deaf, a popular television broadcast originating from Rochester's WXXI, Channel 21, is now being viewed in this area over Binghamton's WSKG-TV.



Josette Day is Beauty and Jean Marais is the Beast in Jean Cocteau's classic film "Beauty and the Beast" slated for Friday, Feb. 10

walk-through performances (by John Wayne, Henry Fonda, Robert Mitchum, et al.), the film boasts historical accuracy, dramatic sweep, excellent photography and technical effects. The film is a bloody record of one of man's bloodiest days. (A-I)

THE GREAT MAN'S WHISKERS
Tuesday, Feb. 13 (NBC)

Abraham Lincoln was known for his sense of humor, among other things, and perhaps he might have had a chuckle over this light-hearted drama loosely based on an actual incident in his life. It seems that just after his election as President, Lincoln received a letter from a young schoolgirl urging him to grow a beard.

Dennis Weaver plays the great whiskey man, Cindy Eilbacher is the penpal, Dean Jones is her father, and John McGiver is his crusty political boss.

THE HORROR AT 37,000 FEET
Tuesday, Feb. 13 (CBS)

As if flying in a jetliner isn't enough of an adventure these days, this made-for-television fantasy dishes up a cantankerous ghostly presence that manifests itself at a high altitude. The ghost is pretty scary in its own right, but wait until you see what happens once the passengers realize all that's needed to quiet things down is a human sacrifice!

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