

**PAT COSTA**  
**As I**  
**See It**



A couple of weeks ago we listed the commercials that bother us the most and invited readers to add to the list.

Bud Laws of Ithaca had three additions to our "most" list:

"Most Deceptive: Bayer Aspirin. Through their own tests, prove that their aspirin is the best despite the known fact that five grain aspirin is just that no matter who makes it.

\* Funniest: Sears, known for dependable, fast, efficient service?

Poorest Writing: I think Ultra Bright would rank a close second to Head And Shoulders (same reasons you gave.)"

Sue Wojtyna of 1005 Grand Central Ave., Elmira, adds to the categories with "Most Natural" and eites Clairol Herbal Essence Shampoo.

Says Ms. Wojtyna, "Cartoon shows a young lovely in a river, washing her hair with Mother Nature's herbs. If you watch closely, you'll notice she drops the bottle cap into the water — pollution, naturally."

And from St. Mark's Convent in Buffalo, Sister Alphonse Marie Schreck, who has relatives and friends in the Rochester Diocese and whose home is in Waverly, submits a poem and hopes it "finds merit."

I'm planning on framing it myself.

Here it is:  
**God . . . Commercially Speaking**  
Do TV commercials exasperate, irritate and bore you?

# At Home with the Movies

**CYBORG: THE SIX MILLION DOLLAR MAN**  
Wednesday, March 7 (ABC)

This made-for-TV feature is a high-flying sci-fi number, starring Lee Majors as a test pilot who "survives" a near fatal air crash with only half a body. Put together again by the miracles of modern TV medical science (and an imaginative script writer) Majors is tapped for a mysterious but obviously super-dangerous government assignment, since his "new" body parts are virtually indestructible.

Sounds farfetched, but could be interesting. Darren McGavin, Martin Balsam, Barbara Anderson co-star.

**DR. JEKYLL AND MR. HYDE.**  
Wednesday, March 7 (NBC)

A television remake of the Robert Louis Stevenson horror classic, this time with some heart-stopping toe-tappers that will absolutely slay you. No kidding! A murder story musical!

Kirk Douglas plays the kindly doctor who takes to drinking his own potions, and transforms into a Hyde-ous murderer. Michael Redgrave, Susan George, and Donald Pleasance take supporting roles.

**THE MARCUS — NELSON MURDERS**  
Thursday, March 8 (CBS)

Fictional reconstruction of the sensational Wylie-Hoffert murder case in New York a few years back, in which an innocent man "confessed" to a fiendish crime ultimately laid to another. Pelly Savalas and Jose Ferrer star as, respectively, the city detective who was never satisfied with the

Try spiritual connotations: Here are a few for you:

You're really in good hands with God.

For He is like All-State; And He's like Pan-America . . . He Makes the going great.

God is like Bayer Aspirin. — He takes the pain away. He holds in all kinds of weather. Like VO5 hair spray.

Like Dial Soap, we can say of God:

Aren't you glad you know Him?

Don't you wish everyone did? Is it true? Then show Him!

To Think of God as Creator Is like connecting toys with Mattel.

When it comes to His love and mercy You can tell . . . God's swell!

Like Ford, God has better ideas: Like Coke, He's the real thing: Like Alka-Seltzer . . . Try Him: you'll like Him.

His knowledge is peace . . . the whole thing.

God is like soap to get us clean, like Camay or Ivory or Zest; Like Hallmark cards, He cared enough to send the very best.

Like Standard Oil, You can expect

More from God and get it: Like Pepsi, He has a lot to give. If only we'll go and get it.

Like State-Farm, God is always there.

Even when things are tough: Like Mutual of Omaha, you can count on Him when the going is rough.

He gets the stains others leave behind.

Like Tide, as sure as fate: And after all is said and done, — Like Frosted Flakes . . . He's grrrrrrrrreat!

accused killer's "confession," and a defense attorney the detective turns to for help in sorting out the case's discrepancies. Allen Garfield, one of the best character actors around, is nifty as the hungry Brooklyn DA looking for an open-and-shut case.

**HORNETS' NEST (1970)**  
Friday, March 9 (CBS)

As any war-movie buff knows, an American GI can wipe out an entire German division. And when that American is Rock Hudson, mustachioed, Marine paratrooper-commando leading a rag-tag band of pre-adolescent waifs, nothing short of Rommel's Afrika Korps is going to slow things down. The sole survivor of an abortive raid on an Italian dam ripe for blowing up, Hudson is forced to enlist the aid of a dirty two dozen teeny-boppers to accomplish his mission. (B)

**TOPKAPI (1964)**  
Saturday, March 10 (NBC)

This adaptation of Eric Ambler's comic thriller about a poor bungling con-man who becomes involved in the fantastic plot to steal a famed jeweled dagger from the Istanbul Museum is directed by Jules Dassin ("Rififi") with gusto. With Melina Mercouri, Peter Ustinov, Maximilian Schell, and Robert Morley. (A-III)

**THE BEST MAN (1964)**  
Monday, March 12 (NBC)

Politics in action provides the basis for this drama about two candidates fighting for their party's presidential nomination. The two are Henry Fonda and a rather youngish Cliff Robertson, and the object of their political affections is wizened

## Fairy Music Blow Fragrant Place Place Hear

# The Sound of Music Returns

By John E. Fitzgerald

Once again the hills are alive, for 'The Sound of Music' is going into re-release within the next couple of weeks. And once again you'll hear those familiar Rodgers & Hammerstein songs — and those familiar criticisms of the three-hour, Todd-AO, DeLuxe Color adaptation of the Broadway musical concerning the Trapp Family Singers.

The \$72 million-grossing film has been called various things in various countries where it's played. In Hong Kong it was given the title Fairy Music Blow Fragrant Place Place Hear; In Italy, All Together with Passion; in Spain, Smiles and Tears; in Argentina, The Rebellious Novice; in Thailand, Charms of the Heaven; Sound; and in Germany, where it didn't do well at all, My Song, My Dream.

It's also been called a "sugar-coated lie" and "a pit of sticky-sweet whipped cream, not of the first freshness."

Should we feel guilty about liking it? Or have we indulged our senses at the expense of our intellects? I don't think so.

It's important to know what the film is and what it's trying to do before denouncing it for being something other than it tried to be.

We all know the story of Maria, the peppy postulant who's sent from a Salzburg convent to be the governess to a naval captain's seven children, and how she brings joy to the wealthy widower, and how, when the Nazis move in, the family climbs the mountains, fleeing to freedom.

It's not a documentary about the Trapp Family Singers. It's a musical, an operetta, a fairy-tale, a fantasy, set in a world that no longer exists — a world which never did exist. The actions of the characters, the music and settings tell us that: We suspend our disbelief even as we do for those other fantasy films, the James Bond series. We are out for fun, renewal, refresh-

ment, relaxation. We are not turning our back on serious drama; it's merely that we feel there's room on our menu for well-cooked corn, or a bit of Austrian torte.

What should be noted is where the film skirts too close to reality. This is in dealing with nuns and Nazis. And the nuns are as nutty (with the exception of Peggy Wood as a superb Mother Superior) as the Nazis are nasty. The bringing in of religion and politics lessens the fantasy and distracts from the form. At least Director Robert Wise, who produced it, and scriptwriter Ernest Lehman recognized this weakness and handled things with more taste and less saccharine

than was to be found in the 1959 Broadway musical.

No single ingredient can be held up as an easy answer to why 'The Sound of Music' is a success. But one must consider the elements of joy, optimism, honest wholesomeness, attitude and approach that come through. It's not a film that deadens us to reality's harshness, but one that offers a little respite from everyday cares. It renews, reinvigorates and recharges our batteries. And, recognizing its flaws, and that it's fantasy — and fun — we can, with clear conscience, once again do what we did before — relax and enjoy it. We'll return to reality soon enough.

## Once Over Briefly

ACROSS 110th STREET — Condemned — Indeed, as even the buildings are

AVANTI! — Objectionable — Angels have 47 chromosomes

BLACK GIRL — Adults — The superbly acted truth, and that's no joke

CHLOE IN THE AFTERNOON — Adults — Elegant, sophisticated Eric Rohmer film

CRIES AND WHISPERS — Adults, with reservations — Ingmar Bergman's anguished study of four anguished women

DELIVERANCE — Adults, with reservations — Not your ordinary camping trip

THE EMIGRANTS — Adults and adolescents — Epic masterpiece on the American experience

THE GETAWAY — Adults, with reservations — Mucho macho

THE GREAT WALTZ — Adults and adolescents — Oh, those saccharine oom-pah-pahs

THE HIT MAN — Condemned — Non-entertainment for blacks

IMAGES — Adults — Susannah York gives the best performance of her career in Robert Altman's psychological thriller

INNOCENT BYSTANDERS — Objectionable — An incoherent, sloppily made spy movie

JEREMIAH JOHNSON — Adults and adolescents — Robert Redford as legendary mountain man

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

MAN OF LAMANCHA — Adults — The impossible nightmare

THE MECHANIC — Adults — First-rate spine-tingler

PETE 'N' TILLIE — Adults, with reservations — Awkward serio-comedy

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

RUSSIA — Not rated — A documentary

1776 — Adults and adolescents — The Singing of the Declaration

SHAMUS — Adults — Burt Reynolds has proven himself a capable actor in this white version of Shaft

SLEUTH — Adults — Sir Laurence Olivier and Michael Caine are splendid in witty British thriller

SOUNDER — Everyone — Unquestionably one of the best films of 1972, the story of a black family during the Depression

STEELYARD BLUES — Adults — Jane Fonda, Donald Sutherland, and Peter Boyle in a weird comedy

THE SNOWBALL EXPRESS — Everyone — The driven snow

TOMORROW — Adults and adolescents — A sensitive look into William Faulkner's rural ethic

TRINITY IS STILL MY NAME — Adults and adolescents — Terence Hill throws all the spaghetti back in Clint Eastwood's face

THE TRAIN ROBBERS — Adults and adolescents — The Duke kin make Westerns faster'n you kin say "They went thataway"

TRAVELS WITH MY AUNT — Adults, with reservations — Film-flam adventure

UP THE SANDBOX — Adults, with reservations — Barbra's Walter Mitty

THE WORLD'S GREATEST ATHLETE — Everyone — Disney Productions' story of the early life of Joe Shlabotnik

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