



AS I SEE IT

Pat Costa

At some point during the recent year CBS discovered that game shows were as popular as soap operas to daytime viewers.

Obviously the network hadn't believed this was so before. For years and years, reruns of "I Love Lucy" and "The Beverly Hillbillies" to say nothing of a Walter Brennan, Dick Crenna vehicle (What was the name of that show?) formed the basis of the stuff thrown at morning viewers.

Then one day I noticed my preschoolers weren't turning off the television set after "Sesame Street" was over. Instead they were tuning into such delights as "Joker Is Wild" with Jack Barry as host, and "Ten Thousand Dollar Pyramid" with Dick Clark and "Gambit" with Wink Martindale and somebody called Elaine Stewart who tells the audience at each show's end "We love you."

At three o'clock in the afternoon, after a respite given over to the soapers, the quiz shows start again. First is "The New Price Is Right" with Bob Barker followed by "Hollywood Is Talking."

My three-year and five-year-olds are wild about these shows and I would guess that this is obviously the intelligence category aimed at by the producers of these winners.

Certainly the kind of questions the contestants have to answer on "Gambit" would not lead anyone to believe they were attempting to attract anyone with more than a sixth grade education — as either viewer or game player.

Most of the easy questions are of the "Who is buried in Grant's tomb?" ilk. The harder ones want to know Judge Crater's profession or the name of Barry Goldwater Jr.'s father.

AARP MEETING

The new Chili Area Chapter of the American Association of Retired Persons will meet Wednesday, April 25, at 1:30 p.m. at Community Christian Church, 2647 Chili Avenue at Westside Drive. The program will include a speaker from the Rochester Telephone Corporation speaking on "Terror by Telephone."

"The New Price Is Right" operates on the greed factor just as The Old Price did. Ten Thousand Dollar Pyramid has celebrities playing with plain, common folk (as they like us to think of ourselves) in a contest which has one describing parts of things and the other guessing what he or she is talking about.

The dumbest game show of all is "Hollywood Is Talking" which depends on mysterious sentences given by stars in film clips. Most of the time the mysterious words are made to sound naughty. But when placed in context they are not. The purpose of the game is to bait the viewer not demoralize him. The producers of the show have not yet learned that stupidity, lack of originality and banality are the worst demoralizers of all.

Once Over Briefly

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

BOOK OF NUMBERS — Adults — The old one-two from Raymond St. Jacques. Enjoyable.

BROTHER SUN, SISTER MOON — Adults and adolescents — The paradox of the Franciscan life is that Zeffirelli will make a lot of lire of his patron saint.

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

CRIES AND WHISPERS — Adults, with reservations — Bergman's study of women, pain, and contact.

DELIVERANCE — Adults, with reservations — Not yet ordinary camping trip.

DISCREET CHARM OF THE BOURGEOISIE — Adults — Discreetly indiscreet Bunuel reveries.

EFFECT OF GAMMA RAYS ON MAN-IN-THE-MOON MARIGOLDS — Adults — As good as its name is long.

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

FIVE FINGERS OF DEATH — Adults — Chinese-imported tale of Hai Karate, low quality.

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 flick.

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

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

THE LIFE AND TIMES OF JUDGE ROY BEAN — Adults — Paul Newman as the grizzly frontier "hangin' judge."

LOLLY MADONNA XXX — Objectionable — The industry gave this brutal, inhuman film a PG stamp. The Catholic office thinks it deserves every bit of an R.

At Home With the Movies

MY SON JOHN [1952]
Sunday, April 29 [ABC]

A solid drama probing the conflict between a man's loyalty to his country and to his family. Helen Hayes and Dean Jagger play the wartime parents of two servicemen-sons and a third (Robert Walker) who holds a sensitive post in Washington, and who shows signs of having less than sterling loyalty to his country. Van Heflin plays an investigating FBI man. [A-1]

MAN TRAP [1961]
Monday, May 1 [ABC]

David Janssen and Stella Stevens join Jeffrey Hunter in a tangled marital drama focusing on Janssen's attempts to corrupt nice guy and ex-GI Hunter into joining him a large-scale robbery of money headed for a Latin American revolutionary force. Adding to the low moral tone is Ms. Stevens as Hunter's spoiled sluttish wife. [B]

THE CEREMONY [1963]
Monday, May 1 [NBC]

Robert Walker impersonates a priest in order to gain access to his jailed murderer-bank robber brother, Laurence Harvey, and hatch a plot to spring the convict. Waiting at home is sweetheart (and escape mastermind) Sarah Miles. But the big question, which one of the brothers is she waiting for? [A-III]

MAGIC CARPET
Tuesday, May 2 [NBC]

Repeat of a made-for-television film starring Susan Saint James,

Abby Dalton, and Jim Backus, and focusing semi-comically on the complications that set in when Ms. Saint James' European tour is invaded by a mysterious free-loader. Light adult entertainment.

GETTING AWAY FROM IT ALL
Tuesday, May 2 [ABC]

A 90-minuter with E.J. Peaker and Vivian Vance who play a middle-aged couple taking off on a whirlwind jaunt to escape their ho-hum existence and get a kick out of life. Barbara Feldon and Larry Hagman also star.

Win a free trip for two to San Francisco and Sequoia National Forest. Enter Lincoln First Bank's "Tall Tree" sweepstakes. Enter any time between April 18 and May 18 at any office of Lincoln First. There is no obligation.

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GUIDE TO FINE DINING

<p>The Big Elms Restaurant 196 Seneca St., Homell, N.Y. Our Colonial Room — famous for 50 years. Home baked pastries our specialty. Open daily 7 a.m. - 12 midnight. Introducing the new Victorian Dining Room (gourmet specials), Cocktails, Banquet Room. Authentic antiques. Tiffany-type leaded shades create the ideal Victorian atmosphere. Luncheon weekdays 11:30. Dinner 5:30. Sunday 12:30. 1-607-324-7450.</p>	<p>Hof Brau Haus Now open Sundays 406 Lyell Ave. Home of real German & American cooking. Wide choice of continental dinners, such as Sauerbraten with potato pancakes and Bavarian beef goulash. Open daily for lunches and dinners. Bavarian music Fri., Sat. nights. Phone 254-9660. Your hosts, Bill and Betty Oswald.</p>
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