



# AS I SEE IT

Pat Costa

Somehow I feel as if I've never watched so much television in my life as I have in the past few weeks.

Because none of our five radios work I have taken to turning the TV set on through out the day and morning for fear of missing an important bulletin or a special news report.

Word of Vice President Agnew's resignation, for example, came in the middle of a soap opera or maybe it was "The Price is Right" (no pun intended).

If I remember correctly, the firing of special prosecutor Archibald Cox was first announced during "Lawrence Welk" or "Emergency" one early Saturday evening.

And various reports on the constantly changing situation regarding the tapes have interrupted regular programming morning, afternoon and night.

The kids, without our being aware of it, have become conditioned to listening for such bulletins. They were watching Channel 8 upstairs while their father and I had Channel 10 on downstairs when Cox was fired when the yells and the beat of feet on the uncarpeted steps signaled something important had happened.

"Special report," yelled the six-year-old, who finds it hard to believe that it once took people days and weeks to get news from other parts of the country.

But back to my original point about seeing a lot of TV in order not to miss the bulletins. In an effort to evade some of the numerous cops and robbers shows I've seen three plays

probably best categorized as women's drama.

Since two were shown in the afternoon, one on CBS and the other on ABC, and the third was a segment of "Love Story" it's safe to guess that it wasn't the sports viewers the producers were after.

"Tiger on Chain" revolved about a POW who returns to find that his wife is about to marry someone else and that somebody is trying to drive him crazy.

"The Things I Never Said" dealt with the story of a husband and wife on the verge of separation when the husband is killed in a plane crash. Before the wife discovers the crash she has a chance meeting in a lonely mountain lodge with — you guessed it — a dark, handsome stranger.

The Love Story segment I had in mind dealt with the love between a free spirit man, a prim and proper secretary and the discovery on the girl's part that the free spirit has a schizophrenic wife.

The one word which fits all three stories is "drivel." Or if you like your critiques somewhat longer as well as alliterative, then "disgusting drivel."

With such fine talents as Vic Morrow, Samantha Eggar, Joseph Campanella and Diana Hyland there was nothing wrong with the acting. Plotting was almost nonexistent in two of them, writing ranged from mediocre to disastrous in all three. But, none of this was as bad as the concept. You could, to paraphrase a commercial, hear one network bigwig say to another "Give the women what they want . . ." Trouble is they forget the rest of the commercial . . . So long as its good."

# At Home With the Movies

**ESCAPE FROM THE PLANET OF THE APES [1971]**  
Friday, Nov. 16 [CBS]

This was the third in the popular monkey series of science-fantasy-adventure flicks based on the writings of Pierre Boulle. This one casts Roddy McDowall and Kim Hunter as the upright apes from the future who whisk through the time barrier to land in the good ol' USA circa 1973. The chaos resulting from man's inhumanity to apes provides a so-so adventure, but the appeal here is not in the dreadful production or writing. It lies in the zesty performances of the leading apes, especially Ms. Hunter. A-I

focusing on a big-time con game up in Harlem. Directed with great vigor by Ossie Davis, the film stars Godfrey Cambridge and Raymond St. Jacques as the two bumbling-but-canny detectives who unmask the fraud being

worked by back-to-Africa preacher Calvin Lockhart. The action is fast and raunchy, with a lot of "inside" racial humor and much gore to round things out. For the mature and the quick. A-IV

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**THE ANDROMEDA STRAIN [1971]**  
Saturday, Nov. 17 [NBC]

After wiping out an entire New Mexico hamlet except for two inhabitants — an infant and an elderly alcoholic — deadly microbes from outer space become the chief preoccupation of scientists in an underground lab trying to isolate it. The technology and language may escape many, but the story is gripping, with a sharp impact. A-II

**THE HOSPITAL [1971]**  
Sunday, Nov. 18 [ABC]

If botched surgical operations and hospital chaos are your bag, then this brilliant but uneven "comedy" written by Paddy Chayefsky and directed by Arthur Hiller will do just fine. And even if you gasp at the sight of blood and wince at the thought of gross medical incompetence, the movie will hit hard and still provide a good many unavoidable laughs. A madman is loose in a big-city hospital whose chief of surgery is George C. Scott, and all the balmy fiend has to do is take the first step — blundering nurses who administer the wrong medication, impossible delays caused by bureaucratic red tape, aides who wheel the wrong patient into surgery, do the rest. The comedy is allegorical, the humor black, and the acting, writing, and directing top-notch. A-III

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## Once Over Briefly

**AMERICAN GRAFFITI** — Adults — For a good time, call on theaters showing this film. It's a 1962 teenage world revisited, complete with T-Birds, blond bombshells, and Wolfman Jack.

**AND NOW THE SCREAMING STARTS** — Adults — Aaaaaiiiiiieeeee!!!!

**BANG THE DRUM SLOWLY** — Adults and adolescents — A genuinely moving story about friendship between two baseball players. A home run.

**ELECTRA GLIDE IN BLUE** — Adults — Rock mogul James Guercio enters a new medium, and produces an imitation Easy Rider that's pure pretention. Nevertheless, he tried.

**HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY** — LOVE, GEORGE — Objectionable — A bizarre tale set in a New England fishing village. Darren McGavin's first shot at directing fails miserably.

**HARRY IN YOUR POCKET** — Adults — A male fashion show disguised as an offbeat crime movie.

**HEAVY TRAFFIC** — Condemned — A gross cartoon, from the people who brought us Fritz the Cat. This time out they're Crumb-less but still Crumb-y.

**HIT!** — Objectionable — Below the belt.

**I COULD NEVER HAVE SEX WITH ANY MAN WHO HAS SO LITTLE REGARD FOR MY HUSBAND** — Adults — We could never go to any movie that has so little regard for our intelligence.

**JEREMY** — Adults — Phony story of a Jewish teenagers' adolescence in New York.

**JIMI PLAYS BERKELEY** — Not rated — Hendrix' death has produced more of his music than his life did. For buffs only.

**LE SEX SHOP** — Condemned — Claude Berri's soft-edged satire on sexual attitudes at best can be described as tasteless.

**MASSACRE IN ROME** — Adults — The world will never forgive them.

**NAKED APE** — Adults — This adaptation of the Desmond Morris best seller is nothing to go bananas over.

**NEW LAND** — Adults and adolescents — Sequel to "The Emigrants," and perfect complement at that. With Liv Ullmann, Max von Sydow.

**NIGHT WATCH** — Adults — A disappointing murder melodrama with Elizabeth Taylor.

**O LUCKY MAN!** — Adults with reservations — Comedy of the absurd with self-proclaimed superstar Malcolm McDowell. The film has a lot going for it especially in the interpretive, musical genius of Alan Price.

**OPTIMISTS** — Everyone — Peter Sellers plays a London street entertainer. If you go in with a smile on your face, you'll come out with one.

**PYX** — Adults, with reservations — A murder mystery mixed with modern-day satanism. Karen Black and Christopher Plummer star.

**SAVE THE CHILDREN** — Everyone — Rockumentary about 1972 Black Expo.

**SIDDHARTHA** — Adults — It has achieved its aim. Pictorially beautiful.

**SISTERS** — Objectionable — Debbie Reynolds meets Sally Field! No-o-o way.

**SPOOK WHO SAT BY THE DOOR** — Adults — Story of a black CIA agent U-turns midway from wry comedy to vicious revolutionary propaganda.

**COTTON COMES TO HARLEM [1970]**  
Monday, Nov. 19 [NBC]

This black-oriented detective-comedy will probably challenge the TV network censor more than it will the home viewer, who will be left with the shreds — minus the harsh visuals and dialogue — of a high powered action story

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